

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 9, 2014

East Edition No 633

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Tiltman murder case begins

After 21 years, man faces charges over teen's death

TRAFFIC »

Can we cope with congestion?

Relentless rise of vehicles on our roads

SUPPLEMENT »

Get ready for the festive season

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A Kentish Christmas

REMEMBRANCE »

Remember them today...

Pay tribute to the fallen.
Special section inside



Theatre Royal

Seann Walsh
Wednesday 19th November

Roy Chubby Brown
Thursday 4th December

Winter Gardens

Frank Skinner
Friday 14th November

Shane Filan
Thursday 20th November

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Lest we forget why we are often better together

SOMETIMES the reasons groups or organisations were originally set up are forgotten.

The passing of time obscures us to the core principles that underpins establishments, which are then hidden further as we become distracted by more modern day concerns and preoccupations.

Take, for example, the European Union. It is rooted firmly in the aftermath of the Second World War and a desperate desire for the dangerous nationalistic fervour which sparked and motivated Adolf Hitler, to never be allowed to happen again.

As the name suggests, it was set-up to unite the continent in pursuit of peace and mutual prosperity.

Yet only the most devoted Europhile could say the EU has no flaws and is not, at times, a hugely bloated organisation. Yet its purpose remains



Editor **Chris Britcher**

steadfast. It unites for a common cause and any fracturing of that should be thought very long and hard about.

Because if Europe fails to have any glue to bind it together, well, however advanced and modern we all believe we are, you never can tell just what is around the corner.

And if this Remembrance weekend tells us anything, it is that we should never forget what has gone in the past and always seek to learn from the lessons of history.

And any agenda driven, in part at least, by a perceived xenophobia, should not be allowed to flourish.

So be sure to remember that history this Sunday by paying your respects to those who fought for this great nation, in recent or distant conflicts - so many of whom would pay the ultimate price.

Lest we forget.

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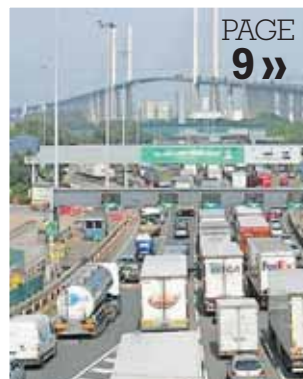
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Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP
Editorial: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 0845 671 4460
Business: 01233 653461
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01233 653461
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Date confirmed for end of Dartford's toll booths

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THE toll booth-free Dartford Crossing will go live at 6am on November 30, it was confirmed this week.

That is when the toll booths will be removed and the long-awaited 'free-flow' system come into force.

It had originally been scheduled to go live last month, but was delayed as the technology used was refined.

Instead of stopping to pay the fee - which will rise to £2.50 when the system goes live - motorists will now have their registration plates snapped at various points through the tunnel and across the bridge.

They will then have 24-hours to pay the Dart Charge toll via the internet, over the phone, by text or at various Payzone terminals in stores.

Alternatively, they can register for an account with savings of around a third on every crossing.

The final vehicle to pay at the toll booths will do so at 10pm on Saturday, November 29. Toll-free goes live when charging resumes at 6am. Using the route overnight will remain free.

It is hoped by removing the booths it will help ease the



ALL CHANGE: Free-flow traffic system at the Dartford Crossing will go live later this month

congestion at the traditional traffic pinch-point.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson said: "People in Dartford have had enough of congestion from the crossing and so as far as I am concerned the removal of the toll booths can't come soon enough."

"Whilst no one is claiming this will end any chance of congestion in the area, it should make a noticeable difference to traffic flows around the Dartford Crossing."

However, plans are still continu-

ing for a third Thames crossing with options in Dartford and east of Gravesend being considered. That decision is expected next year.

Confirmation of the date was also welcomed by the Freight Transport Association.

Its head of road network management policy, Malcolm Bingham, said: "The quicker journey times means reduced costs so this is good news for the freight industry. We will be encouraging all our members to sign up for

pre-pay accounts so they can benefit from discounts on every crossing made."

Work to remove the payment booths and introduce a new road layout will begin at the end of November to coincide with Dart Charge launching and will be substantially completed by the end of April 2015, which is when drivers will feel the full benefits of the improvements.

Turn to page 9 for a special report on congestion in Kent.

Hospital is latest to be linked to investigation into Jimmy Savile case

A HOSPITAL in Canterbury says it has launched an investigation after it was the latest to be added to a growing list believed to have seen cases of sexual abuse by shamed TV star and DJ Jimmy Savile.

St Martin's, which handles patients with mental health issues, was named on a new list published by the Government this week.

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt said it was one of now 41 hospitals where it is feared Savile targeted victims.

It is the first time a hospital in the county has been linked with the high profile probe into the crimes of the late celebrity.

It is not known when the incidents may have taken place or of what nature they were.

The Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, which oversees the hospital now, says it is taking the latest allegations seriously.

In a statement released on Friday morning, the trust said: "We can confirm the trust has been passed historic information regarding

Jimmy Savile, which names the St Martin's Hospital.

"We will investigate this evidence thoroughly and, if necessary ensure that any lessons are learnt for the future. As enquiries are ongoing, we are not in a position to make further comment."

In a written statement to parliament, Jeremy Hunt said that the NHS Savile Legacy Unit, chaired by Sue Proctor, would be providing independent oversight and assurance for the investigations at St Martin's Hospital.

Other hospitals which are also set to investigate allegations of abuse by the disgraced DJ are the Bethlem Royal Hospital in the borough of Bromley - formerly part of Kent.

The former BBC presenter, was a household name presenting shows such as Top of the Pops and Jim'll Fix It. However, after his death in 2011, aged 84, it became apparent he had been an opportunistic and prolific sex offender, abusing victims aged between five to 75.

Case begins into murder 21 years ago of Claire Tiltman

A MURDER case into the killing of 16-year-old Dartford Grammar School pupil, Claire Tiltman, began this week - some 21 years after she was found with more than 40 stab wounds in an alleyway near her home.

Former milkman Colin Ash-Smith, 46, is accused of her killing in Greenhithe on January 18, 1993 - just four days after her 16th birthday.

A jury was sworn in on Thursday morning after a short selection process and the case for the prosecution began later that day.

The case, at the Inner London Crown Court, is expected to last between five and six weeks.

Mr Ash-Smith was charged in February this year, but denies any involvement.

Both Claire's parents have died since her death.

Federation chief says 'non' to call to deploy cops in Calais

THE Kent Police Federation has ruled out officers being deployed to the French port of Calais to deal with the growing migrant problem.

It followed calls from the French interior minister suggesting police could come and help ease the problem of migrants attempting to board ferries to the UK.

Immigration minister James

Brokenshire ruled out any such proposal - a view supported by Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation which represents rank and file officers.

Mr Pointon said: "After swingeing budget cuts, those I represent are struggling to cope with their workloads in Kent without being deployed to Calais, to resolve another sovereign country's problems."



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Operator deal for Dreamland edges ever closer

A DEAL is close to being agreed that would see an operator secured for the eagerly-anticipated rebirth of the Dreamland amusement park in Margate.

Thanet District Council confirmed this week 'heads of terms' have been agreed with Margate-based Sands Heritage. The deal is now subject to lease negotiations.

The board of Sands Heritage is made up of industry and financial professionals who have worked in the

past with visitor attractions such as ZSL London Zoo, Kidzania and the new London Paramount Entertainment resort currently being planned in Swanscombe. Nick Conington, the executive chairman of Sands Heritage Limited, is already a major investor in Margate through the Sands Hotel.

It is hoped a deal will be secured over the coming months. Dreamland is due to reopen next summer.

Health warning to block the spread of norovirus as cases set for winter rise

by Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

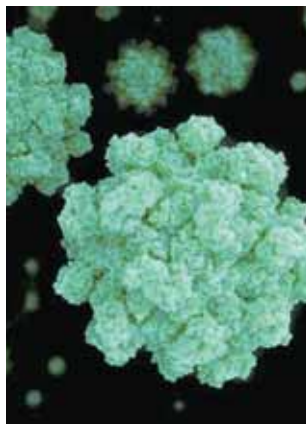
A MAJOR campaign was launched this week in a bid to cut down on the cases of the norovirus – dubbed the winter vomiting bug.

As the most common cause of gastroenteritis in England and Wales, it can affect people of any age and is more prevalent during colder winter months.

Now Kent County Council, which has responsibility for public health, is spreading the word to prevent the spread of the virus.

KCC interim director of public health Andrew Scott-Clark said: "Whilst this condition is an unpleasant experience, the infection tends to be short-lived and most people will just need to drink plenty of fluids and take plenty of rest.

"However, people who are already ill, such as patients in hospital, can sometimes get quite poorly as the illness can interfere with the effectiveness of the medicines they are taking



BUG: Hygiene is best defence

and also make them weak and dehydrated."

The symptoms of infection begin around 12 to 72 hours after the patient picks it up.

Symptoms usually last for 12 to

60 hours, but sometimes longer. Most people start with feeling nauseous, often followed by frequent projectile vomiting, diarrhoea and flu-like symptoms.

James Thallon, NHS England medical director, said: "Norovirus is very contagious, is spread mainly from person to person and occasionally through food preparation, and is more likely to spread where people are in close proximity.

"Public places like hospitals, schools and offices are susceptible to outbreaks and people should stay at home until they are free of the symptoms – as it is a virus, it cannot be treated with antibiotics so do not go to your doctor. If you are concerned then call NHS Direct on 111 first."

KCC is repeating the advice to avoid infection, which includes washing hands thoroughly with soap and warm water, not using dirty cutlery, ensuring all food is thoroughly cooked, and avoiding contact with anyone suffering from the virus for two to three days after they are completely free of symptoms.



HANDOVER: Part of national scheme

Cops call for safe surrender of illegal guns

A MAJOR crackdown on illegally-owned guns was launched on Friday with a two-week firearms 'surrender'.

It will give those who have guns without a licence the opportunity to hand them over to police over the counter at the county's police stations.

Alternatively, the option is available to call 101 and an officer will come to your home to collect the weapon.

It forms part of a national campaign to run until 11pm on Friday, November 21.

It is focused at those in the community keen to safely dispose of a firearm.

Unwanted firearms, ammunition, imitation firearms and air or gas-powered weapons are all encouraged to be handed in.

Assistant Chief Constable Jo Shiner said: "We are keen that those people in the county who may own a firearm or ammunition but want to dispose of it safely get in touch with us.

"It may be their gun licence has expired, it may be they have had a clear-out and discovered ammunition they no longer wish to keep, it may be they no longer have a use for a firearm – those people should get in touch and we will safely dispose of it.

"By removing firearms which are no longer wanted, it stops them from falling into the wrong hands."

Banksy mural taken down for sale in US

A MURAL painted on a wall by celebrated street artist Banksy to mark the Folkestone Triennial has been removed and shipped to the US to be sold.

The work, called Art Buff, appeared overnight in September, generating international headlines and providing huge publicity for the town, with art lovers flocking to see the piece.

But after being protected by a perspex cover and a number of attempts to vandalise it, the owners of the wall in Payers Park decided to remove it.

It is daubed on the side of an amusement arcade owned by the family of the late Jimmy Godden. It says it intends to sell to raise funds for charity. Estimates suggest it could reach close to £500,000.

However, Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins is demanding it be returned. He said: "The Banksy artwork was a gift to the town, not for the profit of one person. We must do what we can to try and get it back."

Bomb team called to county town in scare

MAIDSTONE was plunged into chaos on Thursday afternoon after police were forced to close down a part of the town centre when a suspicious package was discovered.

The busy A229 College Road was closed throughout the afternoon and into the evening rush hour after a suspect package was reported at about 2.50pm.

Police took no chances despite suspicions it was "unlikely" to be dangerous and called in the experts and sealed off the area.

It caused major traffic chaos in and around the town for the second time in the same day.

During the morning rush hour, a fire in a building had forced one lane of the A229 Lower Stone Street and A249 Mote Road to be closed.

The bomb disposal team called in the afternoon deployed a remote-controlled device to examine the item, but no controlled explosion took place.

It transpired that the package was, in fact, a box of abandoned batteries.

Novelty hats seized amid danger fears

POTENTIALLY dangerous hats designed for children but which could become a noose have been removed from sale after a raid by trading standards officials in Medway.

The hats, which feature animals and cartoon characters, lock under the chin. However, under pressure the buckle does not release, turning the hat into a potential death-trap as if a child became caught up, the hat would tighten around their throat.

It follows a similar raid last Christmas which eradicated earlier stock of the same products.

The hats were found on sale in a shop in Chatham.

Trading standards officer Simon Ellis said: "These hats are specifically aimed at children and can look like they would make a fun stocking-filler this Christmas.

"But they pose a real danger and effectively become a noose around the neck of the child wearing it if they become trapped."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Ukip in command as by-election date looms

CANDIDATES in the run-up to the Rochester and Strood by-election embark on their last full week of campaigning this week.

The election was triggered by the decision of sitting MP Mark Reckless to quit the Conservative Party and defect to Ukip.

Mr Reckless is now standing under his new colours in what has

become one of the most fiercely-fought seats in recent years.

Top politicians have descended on Medway over recent weeks, with more expected in the run-up to the poll on November 20.

Prime Minister David Cameron has made two visits in recent weeks, as have the leaders of both Labour and the Green Party.



However, the polls would suggest Ukip will romp to victory over Conservative candidate Kelly Tolhurst. It is estimated Ukip may have as much as a 15-point lead over their rivals.

Decision day over court ruling on plans is due

A JUDGEMENT on plans to transform part of Gravesend may be delivered this week after the case was heard at London's High Court.

Opponents to Gravesend Borough Council's plans for a £120million redevelopment of what has been dubbed the Heritage Quarter forced the case into court, claiming it

would damage the town.

Led by community group Urban Gravesham, it fears just the most profitable aspects will be built at the expense of community projects. The council denies such a claim.

A spokesman for the council said: "The judgement could come any time between now and Christmas."

...also

RVP welcomes Santa

TUNBRIDGE Wells shopping complex Royal Victoria Place flicks the switch on its festive lights this Thursday.

The centre will see Santa take up residence in his grotto within the complex from 4.30pm after a tour of the town centre on a horse-drawn sleigh.

Armistice Day marked

A TWO-minute silence will be respected across the county on Tuesday to mark Armistice Day.

It commemorates the end of the First World War in 1918 – on the 11th hour of the 11th month. Various events will take place at war memorials.

Barroso effigy torched

PRESIDENT of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, will be nursing his ego today after his effigy was burned last night as part of Edenbridge's traditional bonfire celebrations.

He followed in the footsteps of a host of high-profile figures to be torched.

Saved bears recovering

TWO brown bears saved from years of neglect in Bulgaria will spend the week settling into their new home at Wildwood in Herne, near Canterbury, this week.

The two males were saved from an abandoned bear-breeding centre in the south of the country.

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TOO MANY CARS: As Kent becomes increasingly over-developed, we all need to think about how we can keep the ever-expanding numbers of vehicles off our distressingly congested roads

What can we do about car-mageddon?

Building more roads is not the answer, says economist who worked on report into the impact of congestion

by **Jamie Weir**

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

TRAFFIC congestion on our roads is a source of constant headaches. But it is claimed by some that the economic impact on the county could be running into the hundreds of millions.

Much like the impact that a lack of aviation capacity might have on the country's economy, it is said that having too little capacity on Kent's roads could dampen the economic ability of the county.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research – an economic think tank – alongside Inrix, a traffic information provider, found that the cost of congestion to the country's economy was £13.1 billion in 2013 and would rise to £21.4 billion in 2030.

The cumulative cost over that period would be more than £307 billion.

And, according to Shruti Uppala, an economist who worked on the report, that impact will be felt keenly in Kent, with the average motorist in the county spending over 120 hours each year stuck in traffic jams. By 2030, that is set to rise to around 140 hours each year – the equivalent for Kent drivers to 18 full work days.

Miss Uppala told KoS that due to the amount of freight which works its way through the county, and also the fact that there are pinch-points like the Dartford Crossing, the impact on the bottom line would be severe.

She said: "It is a barrier to business as organisations can't get as much out of employees if they're stuck in traffic jams, and especially with freight and deliveries, it means that the more time goods are on the road, the greater the amount of money which needs to be spent on petrol.

"Added to that, workers' wages have to be paid for delivery drivers stuck on the road, and that eventually impacts on the price of goods in the shops. The knock-on result of this is that there is a real economic cost for organisations trying to do business."

Few of us need telling of how the mounting number of cars and traffic

on our roads is creating significant issues. Just ask anyone who has to travel through the likes of Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone or Canterbury during peak hours.

Miss Uppala continued: "The more freight you have travelling through an area, the greater the likelihood of serious problems with the economy.

"This is particularly true for Kent – as with the recovery in the eurozone, we are beginning to both import and export more from them. That means that there are greater numbers of freight vehicles on the roads, travelling through Kent."

One of Kent's biggest pinch-points is the Dartford Crossing, which the Highways Agency has referred to as the least reliable section of the strategic road network. The free-flow toll system which goes live on November 30 (see news pages) should go some way to easing the problems, but it will remain a congestion zone.

Congestion or closures of the crossing can have knock-on impacts across the county's local road network, as well as around the M25.

Other development proposals in the area, such as the Ebbsfleet garden city and London Paramount development, are likely to put significant further strain on the crossing in the future.

The think tank, Centre for London, has recently published a report into the need for a series of new lower Thames crossings.

The Government has already committed to one major one – either at Dartford or east of Gravesend.

Sam Sims is one of the policy analysts who co-authored the report. He told KoS that a new crossing at Dartford is necessary and, more than that, would create money for the county.

He said: "Detailed impact assessment shows that a new river crossing between Kent and Essex would generate up to £2 billion of economic benefits. By boosting connectivity a new crossing here would be a major boost for employment growth in the area."

And that is a view which has been echoed by Kent County Council, which has been pushing for a new crossing for years.

A KCC spokesman said: "A new low-



PINCH-POINT: The Dartford Crossing is one of the county's most pressurised road systems, so what's the answer?

er Thames crossing to the east of Gravesend is a top priority. We are clear that the case for a new crossing is overwhelming on economic and environmental grounds.

"At present, local businesses can't expand, growth in the Thames Gateway is hampered and local people suffer the effects of congestion in terms of traffic, noise and air pollution.

"This situation will only get worse. Not only will freight traffic continue to rise, but 225,000 new homes in the Thames Gateway – Europe's largest regeneration area – will generate further huge demand on local roads.

"The Government estimates current congestion to cost business £15 million each and every year at present.

"KCC believes it's much higher than this, with even the Department for Transport itself previously quoting £40m. Independent studies show the route east of Gravesend will give the biggest boost to local business and jobs and the best value for money."

But surely the key issue is purely the sheer number of vehicles on our roads?

Pete Williams, the head of external affairs at the RAC, told KoS that the problem is critical across Kent, with infrastructure that is insufficient for future growth.

He said: "A strong economy requires a strong infrastructure to support it and the UK's road network is obviously a vital part of that infrastructure, supporting some 304 billion vehicle miles a year.

"Everybody who drives in the South East, for pleasure or business, is well aware of the scale of congestion on our roads, and very often the problem comes down to the volume of traffic negotiating parts of the network in the region which are simply outdated and unable to cope."

And that could end up costing Kent unless something is done, according to Miss Uppala.

She said: "Building new roads isn't the answer. This problem requires a more mixed approach to solving it.

"Things like getting people on to public transport, and getting more people off the roads will really help. But other things which make use of technological advances will also make a real impact.

"Employers getting employees who don't necessarily have to be office-based to work from home will also help, as will greater use of car-pooling."

Mr Williams, however, thinks that the problem is simpler to solve. He believes that more road-building and

investment in infrastructure is what is required. He said: "The Government's promised £28 billion investment in England's roads as part of its Action for Roads, should make a significant impact on congestion.

"In addition the Highways Agency's £317million pinch-point programme across England should also work to improve some of the worst bottlenecks causing congestion and costing businesses every day."

Terry Hudson, Kent representative for the Alliance of British Drivers, adds: "This area is one of the most productive in the country. We have a tremendous amount of not only freight but also tourists travelling on our roads.

"To not invest in our roads is to stifle our tourism industry as well as many others.

"That is damaging to Kent, to the South East and to the UK as a whole. Something needs to be done about this car-mageddon before it is too late."

■ What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or, alternatively, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

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Apprentice stars 'irritating but polite'

Chris Murphy reports on how the county played a key role in the popular BBC TV show this week as contestants sold coach tours which took in the delights of Hever Castle and the Canterbury Tales...

MILLIONS of viewers tuned in to see Kent play a key role in this week's edition of top TV show *The Apprentice* - as contestants found themselves lost on the streets of Canterbury and dressing up as Henry VIII.

The popular BBC1 hit, which airs on a Wednesday night, pits a host of candidates in a business battle with one to be selected as the next business partner of Lord Sugar.

Set a task to complete for each show, this week saw the two teams attempt to maximise profits by organising tourist coach tours from London.

While one team headed off to Oxfordshire and the delights of Blenheim Palace, the other headed our way.

They offered passengers a trip to Hever Castle and then to the Canterbury Tales attraction.

Tasked with negotiating entrance rates, providing refreshments and then selling tickets, the team heading into Kent - Team Summit - left many viewers cringing.

Particularly when candidate James Hill, 26, from Chesterfield, tried to haggle a ridiculously low entrance price to the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII; Hever Castle (main picture).

However, he met his match with Hever marketing executive Sarah

Cole who refused to give in to his demands of an 80 per cent discount on entry for the coach party when they met during filming back in May.

She told KoS: "He was annoying."

"Sadly I felt the candidates wasted too much time trying to negotiate entry prices when it was apparent that I wasn't going to go any lower and James' suggested price per person was simply farcical."

Mr Hill proposed a price of £3.10 per head compared to the usual entry fee of £15.50. Sarah Cole, however, refused to budge on the normal group rate of £12.25 entry for the castle and its gardens.

She added "I do remember being taken quite aback at the price he suggested compared to our normal rates."

"James did the majority of talking. He wasn't giving up, put it that way. He was a bit irritating but in quite an amusing way. He wasn't nasty with it."

Sticking to her guns, she said just because there were television cameras there, she wasn't prepared to compromise.

She added: "We do have a group rate and we think it offers value of money so were not prepared to go under what we normally offer."

"We don't negotiate with other groups, so it didn't seem fair to do it for them. We do have a business and if we are seen on television to cut the price, everyone would want that price



too. That's not how we operate.

"I thought the negotiations would take five minutes, but it actually felt like we were there for at least an hour."

Mr Hill, along with fellow contestants Sanjay Sood-Smith and Gemma Bird, were then taken on a castle tour by Hever co-ordinator Anna Spender, who was "quite impressed with what they took in".

Ms Spender said: "I was impressed by their enthusiasm and willingness to learn the key facts about the history of the castle. It was a big undertaking for them to remember it all for giving

their own tour the following day.

"Jemma was a very good guide and managed to keep most of her group together throughout the tour, despite the fact that Karren Brady [famous businesswoman and Lord Sugar's aide on the show along with Nick Hewer, all pictured above] and myself were also listening in."

Having sold all 25 seats on their coach, viewers then looked on amazed as the team began driving into Kent, opting to start singing songs to a disinterested audience - one of whom shouted out "this is torture".

The second half of the Kent tour

was at Canterbury Tales: a popular attraction in the cathedral city.

But after arriving two minutes before it closed, it proved even worse than Hever.

Firstly, the team got lost after being dropped off at Canterbury bus station. Then they had to cut the tour short for fears of getting the passengers back to London too late.

Not that the attraction was upset.

At Canterbury Tales, manager Calum Donnelly said: "We would be happy to have them back."

"We knew they would be a little late, but we got a phone call a few minutes before we closed and we agreed to stay open for them."

"They did try to knock down our prices and in the end they got it at our child/student rate of £6.25. We were not going to go lower than that."

In the end, the Kent-bound team lost out when they failed to make enough money.

Hapless Gemma Bird was told by Lord Sugar she was "fired" from the process.

The losing team also featured Solomon Akatar, a former pupil of Skinner's school in Tunbridge Wells.

Meanwhile, the other team - who headed to Oxfordshire - featured Felipe Alviar-Baquero who is the founder of Tiny Town children's play area in Larkfield and is a solicitor who lives in Kings Hill.

The power of the shed can change lives forever

Maria Chiorando reports on a project that is giving a new sense of purpose to a range of people who have suffered from loneliness and social isolation

ACCORDING to research, the effects of social isolation can be as detrimental to health as smoking about 15 cigarettes a day.

But all too often it can be the silent killer. As a consequence, various schemes have been deployed in an effort to ease the issue.

And now there is a new initiative – taking its lead from a successful project in Australia and now embraced here – with Kent County Council becoming the first local authority in the UK to fund it.

Dubbed the ‘shed’ project, it is designed to bring primarily men together to share skills and interests.

And it’s far more than simply gathering at the bottom of a garden for tea and a chat.

A ‘shed’ provides the opportunities for men to participate in practical group activities such as engineering projects, woodworking or gardening.

Where they can share and learn new skills, and by working together ‘shoulder to shoulder’ support one another. It doesn’t necessarily take place in a wooden outbuilding, but the concept is providing a safe haven for those with a need for social interaction. It has proved particularly success with ex-servicemen who miss the camaraderie.

Julie Cowdry is Kent sheds project officer at Groundwork, a charity that is involved in allocating funding to shed projects.

She says: “It is Kent County Council who’s funding it and we at Groundwork are administering funding, so people with an idea for a shed apply to us.

“It’s been going for quite a few years in Australia, where it is a government-funded project. There are about 130 in the UK, and now Kent is the first council in the country who are putting money into it.”

But what does the shed project involve?

Ms Cowdry says: “We are not just talking about a garden shed here. It’s not even necessarily a shed – it could be a room in a hall.

“It’s basically a space where we bring people together so that they are

not completely isolated – they provide a place for men and ex-service personnel to come together to pursue hobbies and interests, share their knowledge and skills and develop new friendships.

“For example, there are lots of carpentry and woodwork sheds, there’s a fishing shed where anglers come to gather and a boat club in Gravesend.”

A documentary called *Better Shed Than Dead*, which features sheds in Broadstairs and Sandwich, was recently made by director David George and aired on Saturday on the Community Channel.

He explained: “The film examines the rise of a spontaneous social phenomenon which began in Australia and is spreading globally.

“Ten million people in the UK are over 65 years old and it’s estimated that over one million men in the UK suffer from chronic loneliness and social isolation. It’s more a movement than a project.”

The film shows the men, known as ‘shedders’, explain how the project allows them to share skills and make new friends.

Pete Stockwell is from the Broadstairs Town Shed group, which was funded by the People’s Millions, part of the Big Lottery Fund.

He said: “I’m 60-odd and single again and you need something to occupy yourself which doesn’t involve going to the pub or staying at home watching the telly for hours.

“It has turned me around as I was just starting to get to that rotting state. I’m now doing it and loving it.”

Mr George adds: “The film is called *Better Shed Than Dead* and while I don’t want to say that isolation will lead to suicide, there is a case to say that it leads to deep depression.

“What’s so touching is seeing the men look after each other – you have a lot of guys from industries like building – not exactly the type of people you might of as being particularly ‘huggy’ – but they do take care of each other.

“People are living for longer now and this is a problem that is only going to get worse. Many men do seem to struggle more with retirement than women – they become



LIFE FORCE: They don’t necessarily have to be ‘standard’ garden sheds to feature in the project but what defines the venues that are included is their ability to provide a space in which people can come together and make friends

more socially isolated. This is quite a gentle way of getting people socially integrated – it’s not intrusive.”

Kent County Council’s strategic relationships adviser Debra Exall also features in the documentary.

She says: “What we are trying to do is build up from the ground, finding out what it is in communities they would particularly find useful and do it in a way where people share experiences as well between the sheds because we want to get this going so that it is self-sustaining and keeps growing as a movement within Kent.

“We are delighted to have this valuable community project in the spotlight and we hope it encourages others.”

Ms Cowdry says: “It is a privilege to see the people taking part in the sheds project blossom – you really see them change as they get involved.”

Director David George adds: “I would hope that the Government will wake up to what’s going on.

“These sheds do help with mental health, and that could save money.

It’s not a cure-all, but it will go some way to making people’s lives better.”

The project is open to men and women of all ages, although so far, according to Ms Cowdry, it has been more popular with men.

She says: “Many older men are very lonely and it can be hard to get them to open up.

“It is a problem that can also affect the young, though – unemployment, for example, can be very isolating, or you have people who are full-time carers and have very little time to socialise.”

Many of those who benefit are ex-service people – Ms Cowdry has worked with one post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) sufferer who has found the project life-changing.

Darren Riley from Dartford used to serve in the Army and a combination of personal issues stemming from PTSD meant that his life was not going as he would have liked.

In December 2013, he heard of the opportunity of a men’s shed and soon started working with Ms Cowdry to

continue moving forward with the shed. According to Mr Riley, being involved with the shed has helped him find his confidence once again and move back into permanent employment.

He said: “I am now more confident, have discovered new talents, made new friends and above all have made an impact in people’s lives – this for me is better than what any wage packet can offer because it’s natural.

“I thank all involved for the chance to help in the support of other shedders. I am for the first time in many years happy and content.”

His is one of many touching stories.

Ms Cowdry says: “There is an older gentleman who attends one of the sheds. He said that he doesn’t have any kind of skills like woodwork or carpentry, so he comes along and makes tea and talks to everyone.

“This is his lifeline to the outside world, the chance he has to talk to other people, and he’s found his niche taking part – it’s amazing, he says it’s really changed his life.”



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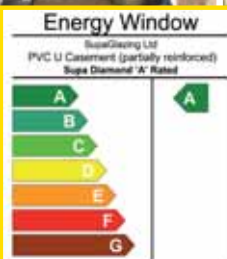
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A tranquil place for pets but the real destination is a forever home

Battersea Brands Hatch features soothing music and scented oils as it prepares its cats and dogs for a new life elsewhere, writes **Maria Chiorando**

HEAR the words Brands Hatch and you instantly conjure up images of high-octane thrills and spills. What you probably don't think about is an animal home where classical music is piped in and aromatherapy oils waft in the air in a bid to provide the perfect calming destination for troubled pets.

But hidden down narrow country lanes near the famous race track lurks the Brands Hatch branch of the famous Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

As part of a week-long series of special events to mark its 15-year anniversary, it gave the public the chance to tour its facilities.

And make no mistake, this is no normal dogs' or cats' home. Refurbished in 2009, the centre is impressive.

Set in over 40 acres of rolling countryside – upon which dogs and walked and trained – the ethos is very much one of providing a calm and soothing atmosphere.

Unsurprisingly, when you consider its 'residents' are abandoned pets – creatures who may have experienced severe trauma or even serious injury.

Hence the sweet smells of scented oils and the soothing sounds of Classic FM pumped into the kennels.

"We do everything we can to try and keep the animals' minds busy, so that they don't get bored," says Carly Whyborn, head of operations across the three sites Battersea runs (it also has a venue in Windsor).

"For example, we have food puzzles and we freeze their food sometimes to make dog lollipops, which provides more fun for them."

The centre sees a steady

stream of animals pass through its door. All are assessed medically and behaviourally, with a full profile built up of their characters and needs.

This profile is used to help match the animals with the owners in pursuit of what are called new "forever" homes.

Ms Whyborn says: "It's almost like dating – we interview people who want to re-home an animal in depth, looking at their expectations, what they can offer the dog or cat, how often are they at home, that kind of thing.

"Then we match them with the animals we have."

In 2013, Battersea Brands Hatch rehomed 418 dogs and 281 cats, a grand total of 699 animals overall, and they expect to find more homes for

pets this year.

There are 16 permanent members of staff and some 140 volunteers, all of whom give five hours of their time a week.

Ms Whyborn says: "The team here are remarkable and have come from all sorts of backgrounds.

"Some may always have worked with animals and some may have retrained after working in the City.

"A few of our staff members started off as volunteers, then ended up taking a job here.

"There are all sorts of reasons someone might become a volunteer."

Sharon Weller is a rehoming and welfare assistant working with cats.

She says: "Lots of cats end up with us through no fault of





LOOKING UP: Potential owners are advised that cats' characters don't develop until they are about four years old



PUPPY LOVE:
Scooter, a resident at the centre, is looking for a loving home

their own – sometimes people can no longer look after a pet, maybe they have lost their job, or had to move.

"We always recommend that people come here with as open a mind as possible, and if you do have a specific type of cat in mind, it might be better choosing an adult.

"This is because cats' characters don't develop until they are about four years old. If you know you want a lap cat, and you get a young kitten who is very friendly, there is a chance you could end up with a totally different type of cat once he or she has grown up.

"What we really try and do is make sure that a cat is suitable for a prospective owner's lifestyle and expectations."

Different cats have different needs from their adoptive families.

Ms Weller says: "We do get some cats that need more experienced owners. Cats don't have behavioural issues in the same way that dogs do, per se. For example, if a cat is littering around the house, it may just mean that the owner needs full-time litter trays inside.

"We do get cats who may not have been handled the right way – they

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may have been encouraged to attack hands and feet when they were kittens, and have now been labelled as aggressive. They would need someone with more experience who could take the time to work with the animal.

“Every rescue centre will always have animals that come back, for a variety of reasons, including things like allergies, but our return rate is quite low. We do work hard to pair cats with the right people and we hope they will stay in their homes forever.”

Not that it is always an easy task linking a needy cat with a suitable home.

Adds Ms Weller: “We will re-home cats in indoor-only homes, but not kittens.

“Some cats that are particularly nervous or shy, deaf or FIV positive [an illness that attacks the immune system] usually need a more specialised home.

“There is a cat for every home, you just need to find the right match.”

For those who are unable to take on the commitment of a pet, there may be another option – fostering animals, where someone will take an animal into their home for short periods. This could be for a variety of reasons.

Carly Whyborn explains: “We always need more people to foster the animals – it can take a while to find them as they have to be quite single-minded. There are quite specialised criteria – for example, it’s good if someone has no other pets and is at home quite a lot.

“Some people know they are going to go on holiday a lot, or know that they are going to be leaving the country, so they foster so that they can



look after an animal but not keep having to kennel them or re-home them.

“For some people, it is perfect as they get to have a long-term pet without the commitment.”

During National Cat Day, the centre invited people to visit its ‘kitten creche’, a chance to watch a litter of tiny kittens playing and ask the experts questions. Such is their popularity all the kittens pictured here have all been rehomed.

Gavin Coombes from Swanley came down to see the kittens with his children.

He said: “My sister just rehomed a couple of cats and my partner is keen to get a cat, so I wanted to bring the kids down to have a look.

“This is a lovely place – I’ve been down a couple of times to look at the cats. It’s nice that they have these events going on at the moment.

“The children have really enjoyed coming here.”



BUSY WORK: Battersea Brands Hatch attracts healthy numbers of visitors

HISTORY OF BATTERSEA

In 1860, Mary Tealby establishes The Temporary Home for Lost & Starving Dogs in a disused stableyard in Holloway, north London. Within two years it was being publicly supported by Charles Dickens.

With its reputation growing, it moved to a new site in Battersea - where it remains to this day. By 1883 it started taking in cats, too. Since those humble beginnings, it has cared for over three million animals and today stands as one of the UK’s most famous and longest-serving charities.

In 1986 a kennels complex in

Windsor was opened by the Queen and in 2000 it expanded its operations to a third base with the opening of the Brands Hatch centre.

It remains a hugely popular charity and one with a high public profile, enjoying star-studded support and coverage on mainstream media. Most notable, in recent years, have been shows by Aldington’s Paul O’Grady on ITV. The show, Paul O’Grady: For the Love of Dogs, has become a firm favourite, pulling in millions of viewers and scooping a number of awards.

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FAMILY FUN: Country tracks should not present great dangers but dare you let your children out on to the roads?



IF YOU go out on the streets today, the chances are you may spot a group of cyclists heading your way.

But while hundreds will be joining in a number of special guided Sky Rides – part of an initiative by British Cycling, taking participants on traffic-free routes across the county – many say Kent's roads remain potential death-traps for those using pedal power.

A combination of heavy traffic, narrow roads and a lack of cycle routes is, many fear, creating an environment of danger and preventing a new generation from taking part in a healthy mode of transport.

Richard Masters, 49, the secretary of Wigmore Cycling Club in Medway, said: "This is probably one of the worst areas in the country to ride.

"There is more traffic and the roads have very little cyclist-friendly infrastructure. In other parts of the country there are more places to take your children out for a ride away from traffic.

"There is little like that in Kent – it's not easy."

Mr Masters has children of 14 and eight, but he won't let them out on their own.

He said: "I always make sure I am with them because I am that worried about the traffic. Some motorists are more tolerant now than they were in, say, the 1980s, but there is a lot more of it now.

"Campaigns like the Think Bike one has helped – I know that is directed more at motorcyclists, but the effect is the same. It all helps.

"The more cyclists motorists see, the safer we will be.

"But our roads are nowhere near safe enough. Much more can be done."

In 2013, some 109 cyclists were killed on UK roads and more than 3,000 were seriously injured. British Cycling claims drivers involved are often let off too lightly.

Cycling is on the up but are roads safe?

Packs of cyclists are now a frequent sight on our highways and byways but, with more than 100 riders killed in the UK last year, it's time to enhance safety, writes **Chris Murphy**

The BBC discovered 44 per cent of motorists who kill a cyclist end up in jail but fewer than a quarter got a driving ban.

Places like the Cyclopark in Gravesend – a dedicated circuit offering a variety of tracks for all abilities – is great if you want to go riding somewhere safe away from traffic. But it comes with an entrance price – and for many that defeats the principle of the freedom cycles should provide.

Brian Potter runs the BMX365/Haro Racing club based in Shadoxhurst and they use the Cyclopark facility for racing.

He said: "The roads are more dangerous these days. I would say cyclists are responsible for around 30 per cent of incidents and motorists the rest.

"Both need to take their responsibilities seriously. There is room for both to cope, but there needs to be mutual respect. We use Cyclopark because it really is an excellent facility and because it is properly maintained and organised, with compulsory helmets – it is well worth spending a little money to go there.

"Our club competes across the country and there needs to be more

places like Cyclopark."

Kent County Council says it promotes cycling and is working hard to make cycling safer and more convenient.

Tim Read, head of transportation at the local authority, said: "Cycling and cyclists are an important part of our transport plans and we are keen to continue developing Kent's wide and popular cycle network.

"If we can encourage more people to cycle, we'll have a healthier, less congested and less polluted county. Importantly, this will also help to reduce the health-care budget."

But the authority recognises there are dangers on the road.

Mr Read said: "It is vital motorists contribute to the safety of all vulnerable road-users, including cyclists.

"We promote safer driving through the Urban Speed campaign promoting the 'see the hazard, reduce your speed' message and being vigilant and taking appropriate action to keep cyclists safe.

"Another key initiative is to provide advice to drivers on 'how to deal with cyclists'."

It's not all down to drivers, though. Mr Read went on: "Cyclists can

take measures to help improve their personal safety.

With the dark, cold, autumn months closing in, it is even more important for cyclists to make sure that they are visible on the roads.

"This isn't only at night – during the day we would recommend wearing a properly-fitting cycle helmet and wearing light-coloured or fluorescent clothing, and at night wearing something reflective.

"It is important for cyclists to understand and follow the Highway Code and it is the law for your bike to have front and rear lights, and a red reflector at the back."

KCC does provide cycle training for both adults and children so they can feel more confident in modern traffic conditions.

Research found 76 per cent of injury crashes occur solely as a result of behavioural factors – such as driving while drunk or on drugs, distractions such as a mobile phone or inappropriate speed – while 95 per cent of all crashes include some element of human behaviour in the cause.

As a result of these targeted publicity campaigns and improved road conditions, the long-term trend for

the number of people killed or seriously injured in road crashes in Kent is downward – 2013 is down by 20 per cent compared with the 2004-08 baseline average, Mr Read revealed.

Taking part in a Sky Ride is being heavily promoted, with events happening across the county, including Strood, Sevenoaks and Herne Bay.

Taking place every Sunday this month, they offer a free guided bike ride for any ability to join in.

But the threat facing cyclists is never far from the headlines.

Echoing the fears is former world and Olympic champion Chris Boardman. He is now British Cycling policy adviser and he admits the roads are just too hazardous for riding.

In a blog for the BBC this week, he demanded better cycling infrastructure to encourage all riders, and that means it needs to be safer.

He said: "Bikes have always been a part of my life and, like all parents, I'd love them to be part of my children's lives, too, but I have a problem.

"I won't let my daughter ride the 300 metres it takes to get to our local cycling path.

"Even though I know that she is statistically more likely to have an accident in our bathroom at home rather than on the road, cycling just doesn't feel safe.

"It's a purely emotional response rather than a logical one – and that's what most parents base their decisions on."

He points out that while half of the children in Holland ride to school, the figure here is a disappointing 1 per cent.

Mr Boardman said: "It's not rocket science. Like any mode of transport, if you invest in it and make it an attractive alternative, people will use it.

"We did this with motorways in the 1960s, with airports in the 1970s, and rail in the 1990s – we can do the same with bikes."

To see where the Sky Rides are taking place, visit www.goskyride.com.

After almost 200 years,

Next year marks the bicentenary of the Asian soldiers' service to the British Crown and, although advances in their rights have been made, there are still too many former troops living in poverty

by Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

IT IS all too easy to assume that the sacrifice of those fighting for our nation is confined to those born and raised within the UK.

But the reality is that British forces have long been reinforced by others from across the Commonwealth.

Drawn in during the global conflicts of the 20th century, they have fought and died alongside British troops ever since, displaying the same bravery and commitment in pursuit of a common cause.

The First World War witnessed more than one million soldiers from what was then the British Empire fight, and die, in campaigns, while the Second World War saw hundreds of thousands more dead in action.

The total number of Commonwealth soldiers thought to have died during the two world wars numbers 1.7 million, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

And Kent is inextricably linked to these men – in particular the Gurkhas.

Hailing from Nepal, their links with the British Army stretch back

almost 200 years when, after an invasion of the south Asian country, a peace treaty was signed that allowed the army to recruit from the ranks of its former enemy.

Ever since then, they have stood loyally by our side.

The relationship was cemented when, following the partition of India in 1947, a deal was struck to transfer four Gurkha regiments from the Indian Army to the British Army, which finally became the Gurkha Brigade.

Since then they have fought in conflicts across the world, including in the Falklands, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

And they have become embedded within our communities, too.

With regiments based at both Shorncliffe and Maidstone barracks, their families have become part of the fabric of Kent, with settlements in towns such as Ashford growing.

But, like many British ex services personnel, once leaving the armed forces some struggle to adapt.

Alex Pope is a spokesman for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, which campaigns to offer support. It runs outreach programmes for Gurkhas who are struggling to make ends meet in Folkestone.



He told KoS: "For the past 200 years, Gurkhas have served with British forces in every major conflict. Most notably, nearly 230,000 fought in the two world wars, where they suffered over 43,000 casualties, gaining a reputation for their courage and loyalty.

"Gurkha soldiers have won an impressive 13 Victoria Crosses for their acts of valour, cementing their place in the history of the British Army."

The issue of Gurkha rights has made headlines for years.

A recent all-party parliamentary group issued a report on Gurkha welfare as a response to mounting concerns and criticism that the British government was not offering enough support for a people who have been prepared to give their lives for this country's security.

It sparked an angry response from the Gurkha community, however, over its findings on pensions, benefits and allowances.

It appeared, to some at least, that the positive publicity generated by the campaign, spearheaded by actress Joanna Lumley and Kent campaigner Peter Carroll, to allow those with at least four years' service the right to settle in the UK had evaporated.

The primary thrust of the report, published two weeks ago, was that in some cases former Gurkhas may have been treated unfairly with regard to pensions.

It accepted that many of the Gurkhas' welfare grievances were proven correct and asked the Government to investigate and pay compensation where necessary.

The Government has yet to re-

spond, but the Gurkha community has been swift to keep the pressure on.

The report was commissioned by government days after ex-Gurkha soldier Gyanraj Raj staged a 14-day hunger strike outside Whitehall in November last year.

Damian Collins is the Conservative MP for Folkestone and Hythe and has campaigned for the Gurkhas living in his constituency.

He also sat on the committee that produced the report into their welfare and he says there have been instances when Gurkhas have not been treated fairly with pensions for their service.

He said: "I have served on the cross-party committee of MPs who have conducted an inquiry into welfare of older retired Gurkhas – those who do not enjoy the equalised pension rights



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the Gurkha fight goes on



OPPOSITE PAGE: Gurkha soldiers protested outside Parliament on March 19, 2008, in London. Gurkha soldiers are campaigning for greater pension and retirement rights – those who retired before 1997 must apply if they want to stay in Britain. **ABOVE:** Gurkhas on parade. ... Kent is home to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, in Folkestone and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Maidstone. **RIGHT:** Repatriation of Lance Corporal Siddhanta Kunwar, who was killed in Afghanistan. Some 1.7 million Commonwealth soldiers are believed to have died in the two world wars.

with the British Army that are now commonplace.

"The pension schemes created after the Second World War for British and Gurkha soldiers were very different and in many ways do not bear direct comparison.

"Gurkhas could retire after 15 years of service and claim their pension straight away, whereas in the British Army, whilst the pension offered was significantly higher, it was based on 22 years of service and could not be claimed until the

ex-serviceman had reached the age of 60.

"However, our inquiry has identified a number of important grievances that affect around 7,000 ex-Gurkhas, many of whom left the army before completing 15 years of service and receive little or no pension at all.

"Some of these Gurkhas were made redundant, through no fault of their own, after the conclusion of the conflict in Malaya in 1960. There are others who have for many years claimed

that they were victims of unfair dismissal. Some Gurkhas, for example, faced dismissal, until as late as the 1990s, if they married a non-Nepalese woman.

"I hope that the Ministry of Defence will review these cases where Gurkhas have been treated unfairly and consider their appeal for a fair pension based on their actual years of service."

Alex Pope, of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, adds that many have opted to move back to Nepal to live after their

military service finished as a result of the problems.

He added: "Today, the trust provides financial and medical support to ex-Gurkhas in Nepal who face poverty as a part of everyday life. It also offers community aid to the villages that have provided so many brave soldiers over the past two centuries."

While not wishing to speak out on the current controversies, the trust has demanded that the Government increase its contribution to cover the cost of health care for its former sol-

diers in Nepal and also that the Department for International Development should do more to fund projects in Nepal.

The trust says this is increasingly important to help Gurkhas who are all too often living in poverty – an issue the organisation hopes to highlight on the bicentenary of the regiment.

"Next year marks the bicentenary of Gurkha service to the British Crown. Various commemorative events will be held throughout the year," said Mr Pope.



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TRAGIC tales from the First World War are all too common as young lives were destroyed and families ripped apart by the atrocities.

But for one community, one single incident would define the tragedy and waste of life which the conflict would come to represent.

Because the sinking of the HMS Hythe sent shockwaves across one town leaving few streets untouched by the loss suffered by family members. Everyone, it seemed, knew someone left bereaved by an event which took place near exactly 99 years ago.

It was sunk on October 28, 1915 as it carried nearly 300 men to fight in the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey.

As the men were due to disembark it was struck by another vessel. Panic ensued as it sank in a matter of moments. There were not sufficient life jackets.



LOST: Crew member Frederick Somers lost his life on HMS Hythe

Tragedy which sent shockwaves across one of our towns

The sinking of the HMS Hythe in 1915 left a deep scar on one community in west Kent with almost everyone knowing one of those touched by the tragedy which cost almost 130 lives.

Jamie Weir recalls the tale of one terrible night...



SUNK: It was 99 years ago that the HMS Hythe sank with the loss of hundreds of lives

On board were 275 men. Of them 143 soldiers, two officers, one warrant officer and nine crew lost their lives. Of that terrible total 128 were from Kent. And many from one town.

Because many of the soldiers on-board were from the 1st/3rd (Kent) Field Company of Royal Engineers - a regiment which took recruits from the same local area.

And for many of those who perished, they called Tunbridge Wells - and its popular suburb Southborough - home. The men had signed up voluntarily to serve their country, and help the war effort; primarily drawn from the territorials. Few were regular soldiers.

Death came regardless of class - from the son and heir to the area's most powerful family, to a Boer War veteran, Fred Somers, 37, who worked as a plumber, and volunteer fireman.

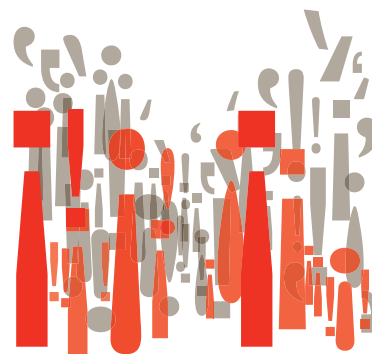
The HMS Hythe had been travelling without lights as it approached the Dardanelles - a narrow strait in north western Turkey connecting the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara - to disembark its men at Helles. The journey until this point had not been pleasant for the soldiers on-board, with men squashed on to make the crossing.

Local Southborough historian and author, Judith Johnson, has researched the incident while trying to find out more about the men named on the war memorial in Southborough.

She explained: "The Army officers were allowed to enter the engine room for warmth for most of the journey, and the men crowded the decks, the drivers to the fore well deck and the sappers to aft during the passage. Accounts speak of the ship being very

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crowded, almost shoulder to shoulder.

"Because of the weather and the choppy seas, an awning was erected from side to side of the Hythe to provide some overhead cover against rain and spray, and many of the soldiers huddled underneath."

One of those men who was onboard the ship that day was Major Alfred Ruston. He wrote about the events which took place and led to the ship sinking in a letter.

He wrote: "It was a rough and squally day and ... a great number of the men were seasick. However, we had almost reached our destination and were beginning to think about disembarking when suddenly a large vessel loomed out of the darkness and in spite of all efforts to avoid a collision it ran into us, cutting deep into our port bow and bringing down the foremast."

The large vessel that Major Ruston describes was, ironically, another troop-carrying British ship, the HMS Sarnia. It had just landed its human cargo and was sailing away from the beach at speed when it struck the HMS Hythe, which was a much smaller paddle steamer.

The ship, which had been a ferry before the war but was requisitioned, was so badly damaged after the HMS Sarnia slammed into it that the Hythe took only minutes until it sunk. The Sarnia hit the Hythe on its port side with such force that it was said its bows ripped almost halfway through the smaller ship – the Hythe's mast also collapsed on the awning which had been erected to provide shelter to men on the deck, killing a number of soldiers instantly.

Major Ruston wrote: "In ten min-



MEMORIAL: The lost are remembered on two memorials. One in the centre of Southborough (above left), the other in Broomhill (top right). The boat which hit the Hythe was the HMS Sarnia - pictured above right.

utes the vessel sank, leaving numbers struggling in the water or hanging on to spars and other floating matter. The boats of the other vessel did all they could and picked up many poor fellows – but all too few, for nearly 130 men drowned."

In the minutes following the collision, many of the men acted in a particularly brave and gallant manner – few more so than Captain David Salomons. The 30-year-old Southborough resident was the son and heir of the wealthy Salomons family, headed by Sir David Lionel Salomons – one of the UK's leading scientists and a pioneer of electricity.

During the ship's sinking, Captain Salomons acquitted himself admirably, according to eyewitness accounts which state that not only did he go down with the ship while trying to save his men, but he also handed his own life jacket to one of the soldiers under his command. In a letter to Captain Salomons' family after the ship's sinking, Major Ruston praised his bravery.

He wrote: "At the beginning, the two vessels clung to each other for a few minutes and about 50 men and several officers scrambled across on to the other vessel."



"But though Captain Salomons was warned to get over also himself, he would not do so and I am sure that it was because he would see his beloved men off first."

Mrs Johnson said: "The Salomons were a real forward and innovative presence in the town. When he died the direct line died and his sister gave the house away. If he had lived the family may still have been a major force in the town so it did alter the history of Southborough in lots of ways."

Southborough's heart was left badly damaged as news filtered through the community. Mrs Johnson said: "A large number of men who lived along Silverdale Road in High Brooms died in the Hythe disaster."

"It is recalled anecdotally that the postman delivering news of their death along this road became so overwhelmed by the distress his delivery



was causing that he turned back to his depot before he had completed his round."

In a painful twist, the day before the men embarked on their journey to fight, the British government had decided against sending any more troops to fight in its Gallipoli campaign due to its lack of success.

Two memorials pay tribute to the men who died in the incident; one at Southborough, and another marble memorial plaque in St Matthew's Church in Broomhill.

CALL FOR SITE TO BE PROTECTED

The sites where 1,459 Chatham based sailors lost their lives when their three ships were sunk during the First World War are under consideration for protection by the government.

The ships, HMS Cressy, HMS Hogue and HMS Aboukir were sunk off the Dutch coast by enemy submarine activity on September 22, 1914.

Gillingham and Rainham MP Rehman Chishti is pushing for the sites to be specially protected by the government.

He said: "As part of this year's commemoration of the start of the

First World War, it would be a fitting tribute for the government to designate these wrecks under the Protection of Military Remains Act."

When questioned about the issue, Conservative MP William Hague said that the sites are being considered.

He said: "The Ministry of Defence is now considering which ships from a list of more than 5,000 should be included in the next statutory instrument but I can confirm that the three are part of that consideration and I know that the defence secretary will note his strong support for their inclusion."

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As thousands gather at war memorials across the **Maria Chiorando** speaks to the author of a book



TRIBUTE: War memorial in Sevenoaks is a focal point for the town

Discovering the lives behind the names on town war memorial

EVERY name engraved on a war memorial denotes more than just a casualty of war; behind it is a human with their own story.

The names of 226 men who gave their lives for their country during the First World War are engraved on the Vine War Memorial in Sevenoaks.

In inspired professional genealogist Matthew Ball to research the lives of each one.

He says: "The memorial is iconic and you can't miss it if you are driving through Sevenoaks."

"Noticing the names on there, I had an initial curiosity about who these guys were, and I was sure there must be a book about the men from Sevenoaks who had fought in the war."

"But when I started looking for one, I couldn't find one, so I started doing some research myself."

The book was compiled fairly quickly – over a time-frame of just 18 months.

Mr Ball says: "Because of the impending centenary of the war, I wanted to get the book finished – at times I wished I had started earlier and had a bit more time."

"There was lots of research

– I used a lot of old local papers, and I used a lot of genealogy sites too."

"I was working with my local paper and they sent lots of information my way – old letters, for example, pictures and old telegrams saying that someone was missing, or had died."

"There were also some news cuttings – very interesting pieces."

"A lot of the service records of ordinary soldiers were destroyed during the Second World War – it's often easier to find out information about higher ranking officers. Many of these records have also been destroyed too, but where they still exist, they are a very useful resource."

It is impossible not to be touched by some of the stories.

Mr Ball says: "I found out about one family who lost three brothers – one in 1915, another in 1916 and the third in 1917."

"A fourth brother survived the war but with terrible in-



FALLEN: Francis P Leroy

county this weekend to remember those who died during conflicts across the generations, reporter which looks at the characters and personalities of those listed on the war memorial in Sevenoaks.

juries – he lost an arm, but I discovered that he had gone on to become a motorbike courier – amazing that he didn't let this injury get in the way of his life at all.

"There was another story I found out about through reading a letter. A young soldier was standing next to a very good friend of his. These young men had grown up together. This is in 1916. The young man wrote to his family to say that a shell had gone off, and his friend turned round, and said, 'I'm done for'.

"He then dropped down dead.

"It's almost impossible to imagine – someone you have known your whole life, just dying beside you like that.

"The chap who wrote the letter was dead himself soon after."

The reaction to the book has been very positive.

Mr Ball says: "I have had a really nice response – I got an email at the weekend saying that someone had just read it, and that it was great. I have had quite a few people approach me in that way.

"I'm so pleased by how well-received it has been. In many ways, I suppose it can't fail to strike a chord, but it's been such a privilege that people have felt it's a suitable tribute to their relatives.

"I didn't know what to expect when I started, but over the course of the project, the nicest thing has been bringing people together, and bringing the stories to life."

Many people assembled at the memorial earlier this year – on the centenary of the outbreak of war on August 3.

Relatives of the men travelled to attend a service, where they could meet other descendants of the soldiers who had died.

Mr Ball says: "For some people, it was just a stroll down the road, but for others, they had to travel from further afield, for example, some people came from Jersey.

"It was brilliant to see different parts of these families meeting up."

Mr Ball has plans for more writing in the future.

"I do have ideas for more books – when the memorial was unveiled in 1920, during the speech it was said that 1,200 men from Sevenoaks went to fight in the conflict.

"The 226 who died are named on the memorial, but I would like to find out more about the rest of the men.

"I am also very interested in the plight of women during the war – they lived a different kind of conflict, with many other aspects, and

I am keen to tell that story.

"I have already heard about some remarkable women during the war. For example, there was a lady who was working in a munitions factory. She was awarded an OBE, because there was a fire in the factory, that she managed to put out. During the fire, there were shells flying everywhere – it was every bit as dangerous



as being on the battlefield, and she was risking her life.

"There were also the nurses, who looked after casualties from everywhere, and certainly had some interesting experiences."

As he looks towards future books, Mr Ball is keen to stress that the Sevenoaks Vine Memorial project is not over.

"If anyone has a connection to any of the men, please do get in touch – it's not too late. Although the book has come out, the project is ongoing, so I would

be delighted to hear from people who might know something more."

Mr Ball will be signing copies of his book on Remembrance Sunday at the Sevenoaks Bookshop in the High Street between 11.30am and 2pm.

For details of remembrance parades across the county, see the next few pages.

GRAVE MATTER: Author Matthew Ball at the grave of Alfred Hope



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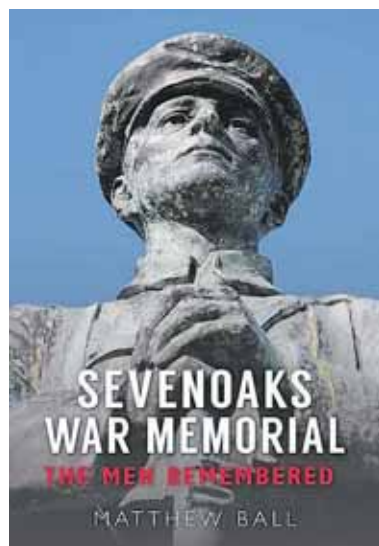


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BOOK: Matthew Ball's book examining those listed on the war memorial

Trust to reissue book on 'the Few'

Hailed as essential reading for those interested in the men involved in the Battle of Britain in 1940, Kenneth Wynn's look back will be republished to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the event

A BOOK acknowledged as the standard work of reference on the heroes who fought in the skies in the Battle of Britain is to be updated and republished next summer.

It will be published in association with the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust.

That's the organisation set up to care for and develop the National Memorial for the Few at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone.

It is a lasting tribute to 'the Few' who fought to win domination of the skies in a key battle against the German Luftwaffe.

The trust acquired all rights to the book, *Men of the Battle of Britain* by Kenneth G Wynn, back in 2010 after it received an anonymous donation.

Since then it has made a number of additions and amendments to the work ahead of the publication of its third edition by Frontline Books next year. Included in the upcoming edition will be a host of new photographs.

Men of the Battle of Britain was first published in 1989 and is acknowledged worldwide as the standard work of reference giving career details



MEMORIAL: Trust behind Battle of Britain Memorial Trust own book rights

of the Allied airmen who qualified for the "immediate" award of the 1939-1945 Star with Battle of Britain Clasp.

Richard Hunting CBE, chairman of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, explained: "We regard it as vital to the study and commemoration of the battle that 'Wynn' should appear again."

"Ken Wynn did great work to produce the new edition and, with the resources available to the trust, we

have been able to supplement his efforts. Those who study the battle can look forward to much new information."

Martin Mace, publisher of Frontline Books, added: "A new edition of 'Wynn', only the third in over a quarter of a century, will be one of the major aviation publishing events of 2015, the year of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain."

WHAT WAS THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN?

DETERMINED to gain air superiority, the German Luftwaffe started an intensive bombing campaign in the summer and autumn of 1940. It was seen as a vital step to securing air dominance to pave the way for a ground invasion.

But the Allied forces had other ideas.

In what became dubbed 'the Battle of Britain', the Allies sent just under 3,000 men of the Royal Air Force Fighter Command to lead the battle in the skies above Kent and the English Channel.

The battles were at times terrifying, with German aircraft seeking a heavy bombardment of key locations - for those in London it heralded the start of what became known as 'the Blitz'.

Despite significant losses - more than 500 airmen perished between July 10 and October 31 - the Allies ultimately triumphed; a result which led to Adolf Hitler having to postpone his plans for Operation Sea Lion; an invasion of



BRAVE: Fighters in the sky

our country.

And it prompted Prime Minister Winston Churchill to utter the immortal line; "Never, in the field of human conflict, was so much owed by so many to so few."

The memorial at Capel-le-Ferne features the names of all those who took part on a memorial wall, alongside a replica Spitfire and Hurricane, the aircraft used to secure a famous victory.



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At 11am on Sunday morning the county will gather to pay its respects to those fallen during conflict

Find out where to remember the fallen today

IN THE year in which the world has remembered and commemorated the centenary of the start of the First World War, this year's remembrance events are likely to be particularly poignant.

What's more, with the recent withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, the sacrifice of our fallen and injured troops, throughout the generations, continues to generate headlines.

As a consequence, war memorials and places of worship are expected to see larger crowds than ever before as thousands come and pay their respects.

This year's Remembrance Sunday falls this weekend, November 9 - it will be followed on Tuesday by further services to mark Armistice Day.

That is the day which marks the anniversary of the official end of the First World War in

1918 - on the eleventh hour of the eleventh month.

Traditionally, it too is marked by a nationwide two minute silence.

We have highlighted some of the key events during the Remembrance period, but there will be others in our towns and surrounding villages, at churches and war memorials. Check locally for other services.

And don't forget to wear your poppy with pride.



» SERVICES

FOLKESTONE

A service will take place at the Folkestone War Memorial, at the top of the Road of Remembrance, The Leas, from 10.30am to 11.30am. There will be a wreath laying and a two minute silence at 11am, which will be followed by a short service. The event will be attended by the Mayor, civic dignitaries, councillors, youth organisations and cadet forces.

A remembrance service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, from 10.30am to 11.30am.

HYTHE

A remembrance parade will begin on the south bank of the Royal Military Canal at 10.15am. The parade will move off at around 10.20am, to the War Memorial on the south bank of the canal. After a service, it will continue. Mayor Alan Smith and MP Damian Collins are expected to attend.

DYMCHURCH & ROMNEY MARSH

The Dymchurch branch of the Royal British Legion will meet at 10.30am at their club on Sea Wall, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, before they parade to St Peter's and St Paul's Church. There will be a 15 minute service at the memorial there, where crosses and wreaths will be laid. This will be directly followed by a service in the church.

MEDWAY:

There are a variety of services taking place across the Medway towns - an area which has a long and distinguished military background - no more so than at the Chatham dockyard, once one of the Royal Navy's main boat building sites and an important strategic site for generations.

CHATHAM

On Sunday at 9am there will be a Royal Navy remembrance service at the Royal Navy Memorial, Great Lines Heritage Park, Chatham. The Mayor, Mayoress and Medway Council's chief executive Neil Davis will attend. The Mayor will lay a wreath.

At 10.15am there will be a service and wreath laying at Victoria Gardens war memo-



rial at Fort Pitt Hill.

GILLINGHAM

Also at 9am, at the Mill Road war memorial in Gillingham, a procession will lead to St Mark's Church. Deputy Mayor Ray Maisey and Mayoress Buffy Maisey will attend.

RAINHAM

At 10.15am there will be a service at St Margaret's Church and Rainham War memorial, Rainham.

ROCHESTER

At 10.45am a civic procession leads to Rochester Cathedral for a service of remembrance then wreath laying at the Rochester war memorial and High Street march past.

The Mayor, Mayoress, council leader Rodney Chambers and chief executive Neil Davies to attend and all will lay wreaths.

BROMPTON

At 11am a service and wreath laying at Brompton war memorial, Wood Street.

DEAL

Remembrance Day parade and service at the War Memorial, Deal Hospital forecourt, London Road, from 10.45am.

At 10am in St Andrew's Church, West Street, there will be a solemn requiem mass for the fallen followed by an

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TOWERS SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

« PAGE 28

act of remembrance at 11am.

DOVER

Remembrance Day memorial at the town memorial, Biggin Street at 10.30am.

THANET

Broadstairs annual service of remembrance in Pierremont Park, in front of Pierremont Hall at 10.45am

Sandwich will have a wreath laying service at the war memorial at 11am followed by parade to St Clement's Church for service.

There will be a remembrance day parade starting at 10.40am in Elms Avenue, and there will be a wreath laying which will follow at St George's Church.

SWALE

There will be a dedication service and parade at the Sittingbourne War Memorial, Central Avenue for 11am on Sunday.

In addition, at 10.45am, at the Holy Trinity Church in Queenborough, there will be a

between 10.50am and 11.40am

There will be a parade and service in Wingham from 10.30am with a parade along the High Street to the church for a service.

In Aylesham the parade assemblies at Aylesham Neighbourhood Project and parades to Market Place for the service.

At Whistable's All Saints Church in Church Street there will be a special service at 10am with the main town service taking place at the town's war memorial for 11am.

ASHFORD

A service takes place at the Memorial Gardens in Ashford town centre at 10.45am.

Whie in Tenterden there will a service at the war memorial in the High Street for 11am.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

A service of remembrance, thanksgiving and dedication will be held at the War Memorial in Mount Pleasant Road at 10.45am. The civic party and dignitaries will leave the main

lute from the March Past of contingents attending the service and parade.

TONBRIDGE

On Remembrance Sunday, the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Sasha Luck along with the deputy mayor, Owen Baldock and the deputy mayoress, Christine Baldock, will take part in the service and wreath-laying in the newly refurbished Memorial Gardens at Bradford Street, Tonbridge. This will start at 10.45am and will be followed by the parade which will take its usual route past the town Memorial at the Watergate and dismiss in front of Tonbridge Castle.

WEST MALLING

In West Malling, events will start at 2pm with the Mayor taking the salute by the pump in the High Street at 2.10pm as part of the remembrance service and parade. From the Saluting Base the parade will then continue to St Mary's Church where the Service of Remembrance will begin at 2.30pm. After the service there will be a short wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial outside the church.

SNODLAND

In Snodland, a parade and service will be led by the deputy mayor and the deputy mayoress. The parade will leave Holmesdale Technology College at 2.30pm following the route to Snodland Cemetery where the service will take place.

DARTFORD

A remembrance day service will take place in Dartford starting at 10.45am with a procession from Dartford Borough Museum to the War Memorial.

A service will follow, which includes wreath laying and a two minutes silence.

SEVENOAKS

A remembrance service will take place at the Vine War Memorial



service incorporating the laying of poppy wreaths on the war memorial outside the front of the church.

CANTERBURY

A service will take place in the nave at Canterbury Cathedral

entrance of the Town Hall at 10.45am and process to the War Memorial to be in place at 10.50am when the service will commence. Following the service the civic party will return to the entrance steps of the Town Hall where the Lord Lieutenant will take the sa-

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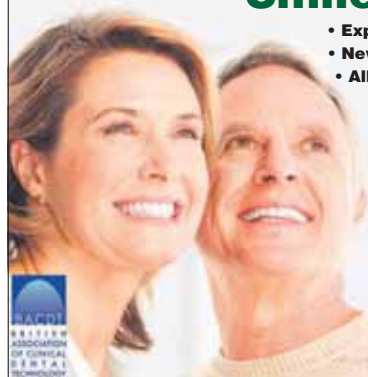
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morial, starting at 10am, with a parade taking place at 10.50am. There will be a silence and laying of the wreaths. The service will be attended by Sevenoaks mayor Simon Ricks.

MAIDSTONE

A remembrance day parade will take place in Maidstone town centre.

The mayor will join military and civic dignitaries, led by the band of the Salvation Army.

The parade will start at Week Street at 10.30am and march along the High Street to the memorial on The Broadway, where a service of remembrance will take place.

There will be wreath laying and a two minutes silence at 11am. After the service the parade will march back and the Mayor will take the salute outside the Town Hall at 11.25am.



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Dyslexia: so much has been achieved but there is still plenty to be done

Campaigners raise awareness of condition while also highlighting successes of people who have it

By Molly Kersey
 molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

IN RECENT years, the stigma of dyslexia has been eroded – no longer linked with intellect, it is recognised as a condition that can have a significant impact on our lives and learning.

This weekend sees the end of Dyslexia Awareness Week, a seven-day campaign spearheaded by the British Dyslexia Association designed at not just raising awareness levels but also highlighting the achievements that people with it have made.

It is one of the most common learning difficulties, with an estimated one in 10 people in the UK having a certain degree of dyslexia.

Sarah Meredith is an assessor and tutor specialising in specific learning difficulties at MidKent College.

She explains: "Dyslexia can affect people in different ways, but the main issue is that they have problems with literacy, so spelling, reading and processing of information might take them longer."

"They have difficulties with their memory and sometimes they may have visual stress."

"It's different for every person, really."

Ms Meredith added that people who have the condition could also have dyspraxia, ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) or be on the autistic spectrum.

Anne Powell, a volunteer at the Dyslexia House Association, which covers Medway and Mid Kent, agrees that more can be done to help, particularly when it comes to helping people with dyslexia thrive in the workplace.

"Things have improved from the time that I was at school, because I am dyslexic, but there's still things that need to be done," she said.

"People often think it's just problems with reading and spelling, but it does affect other areas. It affects time-keeping, for example."

"Often a dyslexic person finds it very difficult organising themselves and that can be a problem for employers. But if the employer is given strategies they can learn to get over that and organise themselves better."

"The short-term memory is a problem. If people are given telephone numbers over the phone a dyslexic person could put the numbers down in the wrong order and certainly won't be able to take them down at speed."

"If the general public knew to slow down

when they give the telephone numbers out, and block them in two or threes, that makes it much easier. If a dyslexic person makes a mistake the person at the other end can lose patience."

Sarah Meredith at MidKent College added: "I know that in a lot of working environments there are targets to meet and sometimes that's not possible for someone who has dyslexia. It takes them more time."

"They should be allowed to sit in a quiet part of the office so they are not distracted, and to use materials like coloured paper if that helps them, and any kind of technology like a dictaphone to record telephone conversations and meetings so they don't miss anything."

Dyslexia House is a local association affiliated with the British Dyslexia Association.

It provides a help line to people, so if someone with dyslexia, their employer or teacher needs advice they can be listened to and helped.

They also provide a list of independent assessors and tutors in the area and put people in touch with them if needed.

Anne Powell explains: "We are just trying to make people aware of the difficulties that dyslexic people have, because often all that's needed in the workplace are some alterations in the way the dyslexic person works or is treated by the employer. We tell them about applying for workplace assessments to help them."

The University of Kent also places an emphasis on helping students who may have dyslexia.

Pauline Farrance, specific learning difficulties team manager, explains: "The situation is that some students come to us here and they have already had an assessment and therefore we can organise support, but lots of students actually come here not having been formally assessed."

"Fortunately we have got avenues to help students here."

"Once a student has the formal evidence, the actual assessment takes over three or four hours to do. Any student with any evidence of difficulties can apply for DSA and through that they can then access a great deal of support."

"The idea is that students become independent learners. We are not here to proof-read for them, we are there to help them learn to proof-read. We teach them different memory techniques to help them with revision, and how to structure and research essays."

To find out more about dyslexia and some of the support available, you can visit www.medwaydys.org

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2014

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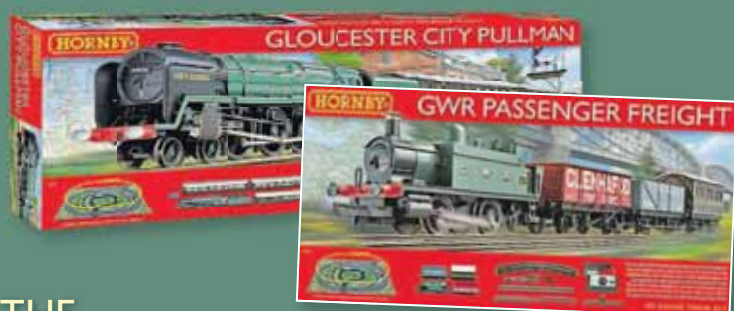
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Just days after we've all been enjoying temperatures that would not disgrace the middle of summer, it seems strange to be talking about Christmas. But it would be wise to reflect for a moment on the fact that for Santa Claus life has been very different over recent weeks.

Not for him strolling around the garden in T-shirt and shorts soaking up the rays.

Rather, up in the snowy Arctic wonderland he is fortunate enough to call home, he has been busy preparing for the annual delivery of presents that helps make Christmas such a beautiful time.

Of course Santa loves nothing more than handing out gifts to

eager-eyed youngsters, but there's something else that makes his visit to the Garden of England even more special... A Kentish Christmas.

Our extraordinary guide to everything that is so delightful about Yuletide has become something of a tradition in these parts, but we're happy to let Santa in on the secret!

Anyway, that's enough from us. It's time to let you get on with savouring every word of A Kentish Christmas. And if you do bump into Santa while he's enjoying his sherry and mince pies, do, of course, give him our very best wishes.

Happy Christmas everybody!

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It's a bit too soon to be thinking about Advent calendars, right?

Well, not if you want to get your hands on one of these beauties!

PACKED with pampering products and make-up miniatures, these calendars are like the Glastonbury tickets of the beauty world – they're pricey, prone to selling out super-fast and some even have a waiting list. In fact, Selfridges' original luxury beauty Advent calendar, which costs £85, this year sold out the day it landed.

All is not lost, though. Lots more brands have got in on the act for 2014, so there's more choice than ever.

Just don't delay if you want a shot at your most beautiful Advent yet...

■ Your Beauty Discovery Advent Calendar, £49.95 (www.yourbeautydiscovery.co.uk)

Filled with 24 decent-sized make-up, hair, bath and body miniatures from cult brands like Laura Mercier, Caudalie, Benefit, Liz Earle and Molton Brown, the gold You Beauty calendar is a label-lover's dream. Worth £240 in total, it's seriously good value, too.

■ Elemis 12 Days of Beauty Gift Set, £59.50 (www.johnlewis.com)

Another not-quite-Advent calendar, the Elemis box of beauty treats is too luxurious not to consider, and with lots of stockists, there's little chance of it selling out. Discover some of the brand's best-sellers, including Pro-Collagen Marine Cream and Papaya Enzyme Peel, during your dozen-day countdown.

■ Benefit Candy-Coated Countdown Advent Calendar, £60, only available instore (www.benefitcosmetics.co.uk)

Always hugely popular, the first drop sold out instantly, but there will be more calendars back on the shelves in November – if you're quick! The 24-treat box has had a super-sweet makeover and this year holds a host of cosmetic cuties plus some adorable hair accessories.



■ W7 Cosmetics Advent Calendar, £19.99, TK Maxx (www.tkmaxx.com)

New this year, the W7 advent calendar is great value at less than half the £49.95 RRP, and with plenty in stock now, it's unlikely to sell out. One for make-up lovers, behind each window of the red pop art-inspired box there's a mini lipstick, gloss, foundation, eye-shadow or glitter pot, plus a full-sized treat for Christmas Eve.

■ Ciate Mini Mani Manor Nail Varnish Advent Calendar, £49 (www.ciatelondon.com)

Nail-polish perfectionists will be itching to check in at the Mini Mani Manor, where an Advent of nail art awaits. Fifteen varnishes, eight effects and one full-size Paint Pot complete your stay at Ciate's holiday hand haven.



■ Liberty Beauty Advent Calendar, £149 (www.liberty.co.uk) (available from November 4)

Behind the facade of the iconic Liberty shop, 25 pampering pots and potions await. And not just miniatures, either – of the lavish line-up, 10 are full-size, plus there's £25 to spend on Josh Wood haircare and even a voucher for a 30-minute Sisley facial. It's super-luxe but worth every penny.

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The toys of choice

CHRISTMAS looks set to be more fun than ever as the variety of toys available to the county's children is even more incredible than you could imagine. To help adults in their search, we've spoken to Smyths Toys Superstores for a preview of some of the very finest.

Rob Guckian, from Smyths, said: "We've chosen a brilliantly diverse range of products, from the tech-focused Boomer and Crazy Cart to more traditional toys like LEGO. But we couldn't complete our list without mentioning Frozen. The popularity of the film has been nothing short of phenomenal and the toy range certainly doesn't disappoint.

"Here are our top 10 Christmas toys."

ANNA'S Frozen Adventure Sleigh Set, £49.99

LITTLE ones have been singing Frozen's Let It Go all year and that's certainly not going to change at Christmas! With the Anna's Frozen Adventure Sleigh Set you can watch fearless Anna set off on an epic journey to find her sister Elsa. This set includes Toddler Anna, an Olaf figure and a sleigh that transforms into a bed.



BOOMER, £89.99

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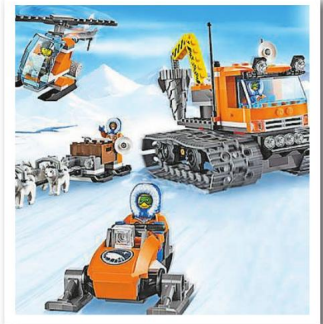
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Your guide to the best of panto season

For many, Christmas is not complete until they enjoy an outing to the pantomime with their family or friends.

This year there is a huge variety of shows on offer around the county, from Aladdin to Peter Pan.

And with performances beginning at the end of November and running until January, there is plenty of time to see them.

Pantomime remains as popular as

ever, with its anarchic mish-mash of drama, comedy, music and double entendre delighting audiences.

A number of familiar faces will be popping up in this year's productions, with Strictly Come Dancing's acid-tongued judge Craig Revel Horwood taking on the role of Captain Hook and Steps star Ian 'H' Watkins playing Prince Charming.

Here is our guide of the top 10 pantomimes to enjoy this year...



■ The Orchard Theatre, Dartford

Peter Pan featuring Craig Revel Horwood as Captain Hook. Running between December 12 and January 3. Tickets range from £12.50 to £36.50. To book, call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

■ The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Aladdin with an all-star cast including EastEnders star Scott Maslen and comedian Lloyd Hollett. Runs from November 28 to January 11. Tickets range from £14.25. Call 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com to book.

■ Theatre Royal, Margate

Beauty and the Beast starring former EastEnders star Ricky Groves. Running from December 13 to December 26. Tickets are from £10. To book, visit www.theatreroyal-margate.com or call 01843 292795.

■ Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

Sleeping Beauty. Runs from December 23 to January 10. Tickets begin at £14. To book, call 01303 228600 or visit www.atgtickets.com

■ Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, with Steps star Ian 'H' Watkins. Runs from December 5 to January 4. Tickets from £12. Visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk or call 01622 758611.

■ Churchill Theatre, Bromley

Sleeping Beauty, featuring Big Brother contestant Zoe Birkett and Coronation Street star Marc Baylis. Runs from November 28 to January 4. Tickets start at £15. To book, call 08448717620 or visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

■ Assembly Halls Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Peter Pan, featuring Holby City actor Mark Moraghan and Gemma Hunt as Tinkerbelle. Runs from December 12 to January 4. Tickets from £16.50. To book, visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call 01892 530614.

■ Winter Gardens, Margate

Rapunzel – A very Twisted Tale, from December 3 to 7. Tickets from £11. To book, call 01843 292795 or visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.

■ Central Theatre, Chatham

Aladdin, featuring Dancing on Ice's Todd Carty. Runs from December 11 to January 4. Tickets from £12. Call 01634 338338 or visit www.tickets.medway.gov.uk to book.

■ Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks

Cinderella starring Ryan Moloney, who is Toadfish in Neighbours. Runs from December 6 to 20. Tickets from £21 or £17 with concessions. Book at www.stagssevenoaks.co.uk or 01732 450175.

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■ CUE THE CUTLERY

Fleuris Vintage-style Cutlery Set, £34.50, Alison at Home (www.alisonathome.com)

A favourite on wedding-gift lists, a 24-piece set of cutlery is one of those practical presents that's wonderful to receive, and this vintage-style set with a floral cuff would make anyone truly thankful.



■ GLOBETROTTER

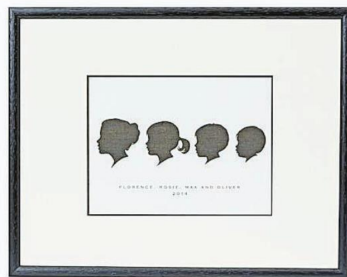
Linea Oversized Globe Ornament, £35 (currently reduced from £50), House of Fraser (www.houseoffraser.co.uk)

The finishing touch on a desktop or side table, this metal globe will give his study or living room a stylish update, and could even inspire a winter break or last-minute holiday.

■ POSE AND SHOOT

Framed Silhouette (4 Children) Black Frame, £239.95, Handpicked Collection (www.handpickedcollection.com)

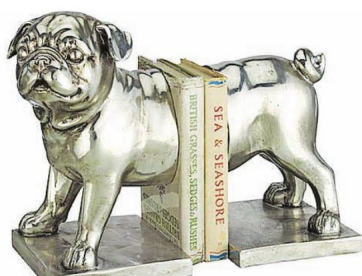
Popular in the 19th century, Victorians had a penchant for silhouettes and these portrait miniatures make a brilliant gift – all you have to do is email a profile photo of your nearest and dearest and the guys at Handpicked Collection will do the rest.



■ A BREED OF THEIR OWN

Pug Bookends, £100, Osprey London (www.ospreylondon.com)

With their small, stocky bodies, short-muzzled faces and curled tails, pugs aren't the prettiest of pooches, but this decorative bookend, in a silver metal finish, makes you want to shower the pup with treats.



■ THE SILK ROUTE

Silken Favours Marvelous Menagerie Cushion, £95, Heal's (www.heals.co.uk)

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■ GLIMMER OF WISDOM

Abigail Ahern Brown Flocked Owl Lamp, £76.50 (currently reduced from £85), Debenhams (www.debenhams.com)

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Adopt a fresh approach to family

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

Tell the adopters that although they want children, we need them.” Those were the words of a five-year-old girl to her new father, John Denby, when he asked her what message she thought he should give to potential adopters in the county.

The young girl, alongside her two sisters, had been consistently passed from pillar to post for the majority of her childhood – she had spent over two years filtering through different foster carers – and was anxious for what her adoptive father calls her ‘forever home’.

She finally got that chance late last year, but many across the county have not been so lucky, with a rising need for new adopters in the county.

Even so, between 2013 and 2014, Kent County Council managed to achieve the highest adoption rate in the country – a total of 145; an increase of 38 per cent on the same period the year before.

But despite this success, the council used National Adoption Week – which concludes this weekend – to promote a push for new adopters in Kent to handle the growing number of children who need them.

And in particular, the message is the council need people who are willing to adopt children who are deemed more difficult to place – either because they’re in sibling groups, or because they may come from difficult backgrounds.

Peter Oakford, KCC cabinet member for specialist children’s services, told KoS: “We have seen considerable success in finding loving homes for the children in our care.

“Now we have new challenges to find the right homes for children who come from difficult backgrounds, who are older, have health issues or developmental delay.”

This is a big issue according to the corporate director of KCC’s social care, health and wellbeing directorate. He said that, despite the challenge, the council was looking at ways to ensure these children weren’t left in the system for too long.

He said: “We want to ensure these children are placed as quickly as possible, because for them, it’s all about lost time. We want them in a safe, secure, happy environment where they have stability, and we are working hard to ensure this is the case for all of the children we are dealing with.

“We are trying to increase the support given to adopters after they take children on, and also give more information to prospective adopters. We are holding coffee morning type events which allow people interested in adoption to come and meet children in a safe environment, so that they can see that these children are just in need of a secure forever home.”

Despite sibling groups being considered more difficult to place, Mr Denby – not his real name – and his



HAPPY: There are plenty of opportunities to learn more about adoption and how you could provide a safe, secure and loving home for a child in need

wife decided to take on a group of three girls when they finally took the step into adoption.

He told KoS that although his adoption experience had been overwhelmingly positive, the road which led him there was painful.

He said: “In 2006, a couple of years after my wife and I got married, we decided to start trying for children. After about six months, we eventually went to the doctors, and they gave us the all clear and said that we should just keep going. We did, but after another six months, we still hadn’t had any luck, so went back. Our GP referred us to a specialist, and after a number of tests we finally found out that there were problems. After trying drug treatments, as well as IVF, which were all unsuccessful, we decided to look into adoption.”

And it was at one of KCC’s open days that they first found out about the possibilities which adoption held.

Mr Denby said: “We went along to one of the open days in 2012, just to see what the options were with adoption and found out a bit of informa-

tion. After that, we booked in to go to a training day with KCC and looked at the different options which would be available to us. These days were fantastic as they really did show us all of the possibilities. It was at the second training day that we first saw our girls. One of the trainers mentioned there were three sisters who needed a home and someone said that it sounded perfect for us – we said we’d certainly think about it, but at that stage it didn’t seem real.

“When you have been through all that my wife and I have, you put up barriers to protect yourself. Because it hurts so much when things don’t work out, you don’t want to get your hopes up, so when the three girls were first discussed, we didn’t want to get too excited.”

That was the real struggle for Mr Denby and his wife – containing their excitement at the prospect of having what they had dreamed of for more than six years; their own family. Thankfully they weren’t made to wait, with the process of adopting proving quick and straight forward

for the couple.

Mr Denby said: “In March 2013 we had our first meeting with the social worker who asked whether we were serious about taking on the three girls. We said that we were and after that things went quickly. We saw pictures of the girls for the first time and were able to read a brief profile with information about each of them.

“The first time I saw pictures of them, my wife and I just knew, absolutely that they were our future daughters. I run my own business, so I’m very used to taking decisions with my head, but with this it was all about my heart. The social workers thought we were the perfect fit for the children and we were approved as adopters shortly after.”

His daughter, on her first night living in her new home as Mr Denby’s daughter, asked him a question. She asked him whether he would look after her, and whether he would look after her two sisters.

“You could see on her face, it was the first time she had been able to relax, and shrug off the responsibility of

trying to look after her sisters. She was only five at the time. It was heart-breaking to hear that question asked by such a young child, but it was such a great feeling to be able to reassure her that she, and her sisters, were now safe in their forever home.”

And it’s exactly that kind of reassurance which KCC are asking others interested in adoption to provide children across the county.

The council want to hear from anyone who is interested in adoption as it pushes forward in ensuring that this year they can successfully place even more children with families to ensure that fewer children are left in the care system.

Mr Oakford said: “We need adopters to come forward who are clear about the needs of the children who are looking for their forever family and also to see past their issues, that may look daunting on paper, to the loving and rewarding children they are. A wide-range of post adoption support is available to adopters which is tailor-made to the needs of their family.”

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THIRD PLACE: This striking shot from Mike Roberts, called *The Same Place*, came third

Capturing the history and beauty of Faversham Creek

Chris Britcher takes a look at an exhibition next weekend around historic site

THERE are aspects of every town in the county steeped in history but which carry particular memories to certain generations.

During the summer, residents and visitors have been sharing their views of Faversham Creek in the form of photographs new and old, drawings and paintings.

And the resulting collection of images will form part of a two-day exhibition next weekend.

The event is part of the 'Picture the Creek' project set up by the Brents Community Association and Amicus Horizon housing association, in partnership with Kent Creative Arts CIC.

The project was launched at the Faversham Nautical Festival in July 2014, with people being asked to write one word that summed up the creek for them, and their comments being turned into 'word pictures'.

They were then encouraged to email photographs, drawings or paintings of aspects of the creek that interested them – or, if they had old photographs or pictures, to bring them to a drop-in session where they could be scanned electronically.

The event takes place at the Purifier Building on Morrison's Wharf on North Lane on Saturday and Sunday, November 15-16, when a total of 232 images will be featured.

There will also be a chance for adults and children alike to get creative.

Three prize winners have also been selected by a panel of judges, the winner of which contributing an image from 1935 of a sideways launch on the creek at the old boatyard.

Pictured above is the third-place image from Mike Roberts – a shot at

the end of Iron Wharf.

Picture the Creek has also attracted the attention of Dr David Nettleingham from the University of Kent.

He is interested in following up with a more detailed oral history project, collecting stories and information from residents who remember the old industrial days of the creek.

Dr Nettleingham will be at the event throughout the weekend.

Local photographer Richard Torble will also be leading a photo walk on the Saturday.

"We want people of all ages to come along," said Angela Simmons, chair of the Brents Community Association, a local residents' association.

"It's not just an exhibition. There will be writing and drawing materials and things for children to see and do, and a chance to talk

about how the creek connects with the local community.

"We heard some fascinating stories at the drop-in day and we hope there will be more at this event."

Linda Scamp, chair of housing association Amicus Horizon's east Kent area panel, added: "The creek is an important part of family history for a lot of our residents on the North Preston estate and the opportunity to capture their memories and stories for the future would be a great legacy for our project."

Debbie Lawther, from the Faversham Creek Trust, concluded: "We think the creek belongs to all of us, young and old, and this competition has shown how people love it, look at it, think about it and cherish it."

The event runs from 11am to 5pm.

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Tel: 01233 653476



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Eric and Little Ern return

AN affectionate tribute to comedy legends Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise heads to the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on November 16.

Eric and Little Ern re-creates the magic of the duo in their heyday.



Chatty Man back on tour

COMIC and popular TV presenter Alan Carr will be back in the county next year on his Yap, Yap, Yap! tour.

The stand-up has enjoyed huge success, fronting his own Channel 4 chat show and scooping BAFTA and British Comedy awards.

He performs at Chatham's Central Theatre on April 2. Tickets on sale now.

Paloma's Leas Cliff date

CHART star Paloma Faith performs at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall later this month as part of her current UK tour.

The singer, whose third album A Perfect Contradiction shot to number two, performs on Monday, November 24.



Stones and Dylan re-born

TRIBUTE bands to the Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan will create some of the greatest hits at a special pre-Christmas show at Sevenoaks's Stag Theatre on December 20.

Not The Rolling Stones features a lookalike Mick Jagger frontman, while The Bob Dylan Experience has also been acclaimed for emulating the American singer-songwriter.

Day of reflection on the drama inspired by war

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AS the county remembers the fallen during conflicts over the last 100 years at services across Kent today, a special event will take place at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury focusing on the so-called 'lost plays' of the First World War.

The event will take place on Tuesday, November 11, to coincide with Armistice Day, which marks the anniversary of the official end of the Great War in 1918.

This year it carries extra significance given the centenary of the start of the conflict which claimed millions of lives.

And to mark the occasion there will be a one-day public event exploring how theatre responded to the events of 1914-18.

It will include a rare opportunity to see performances of wartime plays.

Explains a spokesman for the event: "Taking place in the Marlowe Studio space, there will be a daytime symposium with performed readings accompanied by talks and discussions.

"Then in the evening there will



be rehearsed readings of rarely performed wartime plays.

"They include JM Barrie's thoughtful 1918 play A Well-Remembered Voice, from which the event takes its name."

The event is co-run by The Marlowe Theatre, Gateways to the First World War – an organisation set up and funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council – and the University of Kent's School of Arts.

Tickets for events running between 10am and 5pm – which include a day of talks and

workshops exploring the impact of the war on theatre, including a discussion of Peter Pan creator JM Barrie's war play – cost £10.

To attend the play readings in the evening, at 8pm, which will include rehearsed readings of those rarely performed wartime plays, offering different views on the conflict, cost £7.

Those interested in attending both events can buy tickets for both the day and night events at a discounted price.

To book, contact the box office at the Marlowe.



VENUE: The Marlowe Theatre



AUTHOR: JM Barrie

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Days Out and Holidays for 2014

Days out and Holidays for 2015 will follow

NOVEMBER

- Sat 8th** **Romford Market & Bluewater Drop** at Bluewater and pick up on way back. Start 0800 R/gate Harbour **£15pp**
Tinsel & Turkey 5-day break to Torquay. Only 4 seats left (at Coppice Hotel) **£199pp**
- Mon 10th to Fri 14th** **Armistice Day in Ypres** 6-15am Start at R/gate Harbour, celebrations start at 11am in Ypres at Menine-Gate, visiting war graves then return on shuttle (train) 18:50pm **£35pp**
- Thurs 20th** **Rye Market and then on to Hastings** For afternoon tea 0800 R/gate Harbour **£15pp** (tea not included)
Wed 26th **Brugge Christmas Market & Ice Rink** 7am start **£35pp**
Sat 29th **Come with us to Polehill Garden Centre, Sevenoaks** and visit Santa's Grotto. Christmas decorations on sale. We start 0800 Ramsgate Harbour, leave Polhill lunch time for Tunbridge Wells **£15 adults/child £10** (under 12yrs)

DECEMBER

- Sat 6th** **Hyde Park Winter Wonderland** The main Christmas Market. The best-ever this year with a lavish array of attractions on site. Something for everyone. A complete family day out in the capital. 0800 start (R/gate Harbour) **£20pp/child £15** (under 12yrs)
- Tue 9th** **Leeds Castle** Visit the stately rooms brimming with traditional decorations, twinkling lights and fragrant pine Christmas trees in the gardens. Enjoy the Christmas market. 0800 start (R/gate Harbour) **£29pp** (inc. entry to castle)
- Wed 10th** **Bluewater or Lakeside - Shop 'til You Drop** Start 0800 R/gate Harbour **£15pp**
Sun 14th **Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, London** 0800 start (R/gate Harbour) **£20pp/child £15** (under 12 yrs)
Sat 20th **Romford Market** With all the Christmas spirit for shopping in the festive week. Last-minute shop! Start 0800 R/gate Harbour **£15pp**
- Fri 26th** **Boxing Day - Come with us to the Dogs at Sittingbourne** To include coach travel, breakfast, brunch, entry and race, family day out in the directors room, racing starts at 11am till 2:15pm. **£35pp**

JANUARY

- Fri 2nd** **January Sale Oxford Street, London** Then take in the sights and sounds of our capital city, London. Start 0800 R/gate Harbour **£15pp**
Sat 3rd **Bluewater & Lakeside Sales** A great day out. Start 0800 R/gate Harbour **£15pp**

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Take a walk on the wild side at the Dinosaur Zoo

Jurassic Park may have reignited our love affair with prehistoric giants; now they're taking to the stage

A FASCINATION with dinosaurs extends way through the generations and it would appear there is no let-up from all age groups in learning more about the creatures which once roamed, and ruled, the Earth.

Now a visual and physical theatre company based in Australia is bringing a remarkable tour to the county which promises to bring the audience up close and personal to some of these magnificent creatures.

It may not be quite up to Jurassic Park standard, but it will allow anyone of any age to learn more about the dinosaurs.

Scott Wright is director of the Dinosaur Zoo show.

He explains: "It could be described as a live animal presentation, much like you might see at a zoo or a wildlife

park but we have dinosaurs, great dinosaurs, from very small babies to some of the largest ever found.

"We teach the audience aspects of animal husbandry and we invite some members of the audience onto the stage to assist us with feeding and caring for our dinosaurs.

"This is the show that Steve Irwin would be doing if dinosaurs were alive today."

Naturally geared towards children, the production has found that adults are walking away with as much insight as their offspring.

Mr Wright adds: "The aim is to have fun and to be honest.

"Dinosaurs are awesome but they can also be big and scary – every kid knows that.

"We like delivering the facts and



BITE: This is no ordinary show as it features plenty of interaction

since working with museums the importance of honesty has allowed us to tackle some pretty sticky questions like 'is it real?'.

"Once upon a time we would try and explain our way out of such a question with awkward charm, but these days we are straight up, 'yes it's a real puppet'. It's the easiest answer and thanks to the magic of theatre and people's desire to suspend their disbelief, more often than not just two minutes after you announce that all the dinosaurs are puppets, people forget and continue on the journey.

"Throughout the show we will bring people on to the stage – this is actually my favourite part because it is unrehearsed.

"People's reactions are very real and unpredictable, so it makes for

some wonderful moments.

"In the past we used to try and invite all the children in the audience to come on to the stage with us, but as the show has grown in popularity and audience numbers have got much bigger, we now bring some of the dinosaurs out at the end of the show for a meet and greet so that folks have a chance to pat the creatures or take a photo."

And after several years of touring the production, there's been no let-up in the appetite yet.

Dinosaur Zoo has two daily showings on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18-19, at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

Tickets are priced at £12.50, with special rates available for schools. Contact the box office for details.

Dig for art inspiration

ARTISTS are being encouraged to contribute to an exhibition being staged at the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable early next year.

Organised by Kent Creative Live, the event runs from January 21-27. Artists are encouraged to submit work on the theme of soil.

Work will be judged by a jury panel. Deadline for submissions is Friday, January 2. For details on how to submit your work, visit the Kent Creative Live website.

Messiah's county dates

MERRY Opera Company's version of Handel's Messiah is back on the road for a nationwide tour, with dates upcoming in the county.

The company, based in the county, will be performing in Plaxtol Parish Church on November 15 and Revelation St Mary's in Ashford on November 30.

The critically-acclaimed performance, first premiered in 2011, is directed by John Ramster.

Bellowhead's birthday

FOLK fusion specialists Bellowhead continue to celebrate their 10th anniversary with a date at Margate's Winter Gardens at the end of the month.

The 11-piece band who mix folk, funk, rock, world and jazz recently scooped the Best Album award at the 2013 Folk Awards.

Now they are back on the road in their biggest UK tour yet.

The band play the seaside venue on November 25. Tickets cost £24.50.

Elvis musical on its way

PULL on your blue suede shoes for a musical dedicated to the legendary Elvis Presley and his remarkable career coming to the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone later this month.

The Elvis Years Musical follows his rise to fame in Memphis and how he became a global icon. It is from the same team behind West End production Jailhouse Rock.

The show takes place in the county town on Thursday, November 27.



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The revolution didn't happen but the UB40 beat goes on

By Dave Mairs

dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

THEY'RE still a big deal, UB40. Thirty-six years after their formation, the news that they're hitting town will have the box-office phone lines ringing hot.

The reggae band who topped the UK singles chart three times (Red Red Wine, Can't Help Falling In Love and I Got You Babe) come to Kent this month for two dates.

The one at Margate's Winter Gardens has sold out, while the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells has announced that you'll only get to see them there should tickets be returned.

Saxophone-player Brian Travers is relishing visits to some of the smaller venues on this year's tour.

"They're real venues," he said. "We'd only been playing arenas and when you're doing that the only people you see are the ones you work with."

"I love Margate!" he says before being reminded that some of the band's gigs in the town – along with those of others who played at the time of the great ska and reggae revival all those years ago – were marred by violence.



Picture: MARTIN PORTER

THEIR LIGHT STILL SHINES: Thirty-six years since their formation, UB40 gigs sell out across the country

There was, it's perhaps most succinct to say, a 'skinhead problem' at the time.

"It always happens when people get poor," he said. "You don't get a great education, you've got no job..."

UB40 looked to make music with a social conscience, but has age mellowed the message?

"Of course. We're grown up now. When you're kids, you think

you can change the world, but you get more intelligent and realise that you can't do it with pop songs.

"You can still be counted and say the right things, but we don't tend to write for the revolution any more."

It's a dose of realism that might disappoint the idealistic, while the cynic could point to the fact that the members of this most socially

aware of bands were at one point hugely wealthy. Either way, the lavish lifestyles came to an end.

"Laughable as it might seem, we all became bankrupt," says Travers.

If it all sounds a familiar tale of the ever-ruthless music industry, there's something about Travers and his mates that suggests they'll yet be bouncing all the way back to the bank... not the dole office.

Towns set for festive lights

CHATHAM, Rochester, Gillingham, Strood and Rainham will take on a festive theme between November 14 and 28 as the annual Christmas lights switch-on events take place.

Chatham will be the first, this Friday (November 14).



Purple Zeppelin set to rock

AWARD-WINNING tribute act for legendary rock bands Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple arrives in Deal on November 22.

Purple Zeppelin, who have performed across the UK, will perform the two bands' classic hits at the Astor Theatre on November 22 in a two-and-a-half-hour show, complete with costume changes for each band.

Take a Dickens bus tour

GET a taste of Charles Dickens's life on a special bus tour back in time through the streets of Medway.

Running every weekend from November 15 to December 21, it takes in the author's former home and inspirations.



Production's rail journey

E NESBIT classic The Railway Children is being adapted for the stage by the Sarah Thorne Theatre Company Juniors.

The performance, directed by Kim Bourne, takes place at 3pm on Sunday, November 23.

Tickets cost £7 for adults and £5 for children. For details, contact the box office of the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs.

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Wonderland is just a Lille bit away

TRAVEL REVIEW: Lille

by Molly Kersey

LIVING in such close proximity to France, it can be easy to take it for granted.

But after taking a ferry I soon found that just an hour and a half away there is a variety of beautiful things to see and do in the northern regions of our neighbouring country.

After undertaking an hour-long drive from Calais to Cassel, we began our exploration by paying a visit to the idyllic Jardin de la Ferme du Mont des Recollets.

The 14 gardens have been created by Manu de Quillacq, who transformed the area from ruins into a picturesque location that holds a stunning view of the countryside.

The unique gardens take their inspiration from Flanders and have been designed to resemble the work of early Flemish painters, from the Renaissance to the traditional and the contemporary.

The gardens, which stretch over two acres, welcome 5,000 visitors each year. They feature a number of interesting characteristics such as berlingots, tracteries of box hedging and yews shaped into waves, drawing on Renaissance ideas that everything is heading to the sky.

The peaceful location of the authentic Flemish farmstead is highly appealing and there are plenty of interesting sights to explore, leaving me refreshed after a relaxing stroll around the gardens.

We checked in to the Chatellerie du Schoebeque. The quirky hotel has 12 rooms, which each have a different theme. The rooms are charming and have been decorated with a great deal of effort, with each theme beautifully achieved.

Ranging from Pompadour, the seaside, or famous people from the region, each suite is completely



Pictures: SOPHIE STANKIEWICZ

AN INTOXICATING BLEND: There are picturesque sights as well as food by leading chef Steven Ramon, left

different from the next. I stayed in the Morocco suite, with a gorgeous tiled bathroom and stunning furnishings to set the scene.

The hotel is situated at the highest point of Flanders, some 176 metres above sea level.

A short walk through the Grand Place will lead you to the park and a scenic view over the plain.

That evening, we ate at the estaminet Het Kasteel Hof.

With their rustic charm and

fun-loving atmosphere, estaminets, small cafés that sell alcohol, are rising in popularity across France.

Het Kasteel Hof represents one of the best in the region.

Potatoes were peeled on the table behind us as we ate, the staff were extremely welcoming and friendly, and there was a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere as we tucked into such Flemish specialties as Welsh rarebit.

Next we made our way to Lille,

another hour-long journey by car. After checking in at the Hotel Novotel Lille Centre Gare, we explored the city by touring in a 2CV, leaning with every bend in the road and taking in the interesting buildings, which are a mixture of old and new influence.

As we tackled the cobbled streets, our driver guide told us interesting anecdotes about Lille, including how much of it used to comprise water before it was paved over.

Molly Kersey was a guest of MyFerryLink. Visit www.myferrylink.com or phone 0844 2482 100.

Doubles at Chatellerie du Schoebeque (www.schoebeque.com) start from €189 per night on a room-only basis.

Doubles at Hôtel Novotel Lille Centre Gare (+33 3 2838 6700) start from £83 per night on a room-only basis.

For more information on Nord, you can visit www.tourisme-nord.com.

We were shown both the new buildings, some of which we were told have a reputation for being particularly unattractive, and the Flemish houses in the old town.

Old Lille is the ideal place to find the great names in luxury goods, fashion and design and it also boasts a selection of antiques shops and art galleries.

There are many interesting and beautiful buildings and plenty to see.

We stopped in Chez Meert, a patisserie that sees people queuing out of the door to find a seat and savour one of its renowned waffles and tea.

That evening we ate at Rouge Barre, the new restaurant of leading chef Steven Ramon.

This modern venue has a relaxed atmosphere, with plenty of wine flowing throughout the evening.

The meals consist of four smaller courses, which are light and refreshing, while our dessert was a delicious concoction of mango, white chocolate and mandarin, all of which complemented each other well.

Cassel and Lille are sure to leave you with a full stomach and many happy weekend memories.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



Interstellar
(15, 99 mins) Drama/Romance/Comedy

WRITER-director Christopher Nolan shoots for the stars with a thriller about mankind's search beyond this galaxy for a new home to replace a dying planet Earth.

Cooper (Matthew McConaughey), a former test pilot, answers a call from Professor Brand (Michael

Caine) to lead a mission to locate a new planet capable of sustaining human life.

Leaving his brood in the care of his father-in-law (John Lithgow), he undertakes the most important mission in human history, knowing that failure would mean certain death for the people he loves.

A couple of dense, wordy philosophical discussions about gravity and love orbit the moon of unintentional hilarity, but thankfully Nolan avoids the crash and burn in the nick of time.

Rating 7/10

Say When
(15, 99 mins) Drama/Romance/Comedy

SLACKER Megan (Keira Knightley) works for her father Ed (Jeff Garlin) by twirling a sign at the roadside.

At the wedding of best friend Allison (Ellie Kemper), Megan sidesteps a marriage proposal from her boyfriend and catches Ed in a

clinch with a woman who isn't her mother. Megan heads to the grocery store for wedding reception supplies and ends up buying alcohol for 16-year-old Annika (Chloe Grace Moretz) and her chums.

She tells Anthony that she's heading out of town for a week to attend a seminar but really heads to Annika's house and crashes on the floor of her underage friend's bedroom.

The youngster's father, a divorce lawyer called Craig (Sam Rockwell), allows Megan to stay and chemistry builds between the pair.

Their broadly-sketched characters trade glancing verbal blows as the script meanders towards its inevitable and lack-lustre moment of reckoning.

Rating 7/10

The Skeleton Twins
(15, 93 mins) Drama/Romance/Comedy

IN this small but perfectly-formed



character study, dental hygienist Maggie Dean (Wiig) receives a phone call from a hospital in L.A.

Her twin brother Milo (Hader) is recovering after a failed attempt to slit his wrists in the bath.

Maggie collects Milo and spirits him back to their New York hometown, where she lives with her outdoorsy husband Lance (Luke Wilson).

Milo visits old haunts, including

the bookshop where his high school English teacher Rich (Ty Burrell), with whom he had a sexual relationship, now works. There is still a spark.

Milo wrestles with his feelings and provides emotional support to Maggie, who seems determined to self-destruct her marriage by sleeping with her handsome scuba diving instructor (Boyd Holbrook).

Rating 9/10

WE may have had storms and rain, but while the ground's workable, gardeners should make the most of the time they have left to do the jobs which will give them a head start next year.

Whether it's revamping your lawn, dividing perennials, trimming hedges, clearing weeds or preparing the greenhouse for winter, you should leave no stone unturned if you want to get things in order for spring, so don't delay in completing these tasks:

Plant new trees, shrubs and roses. These should benefit from the warm soil, which encourages root growth to develop quickly. You will need to give them a good soak when planting initially, but hopefully rain will play a part, too. Just keep an eye on newly-planted specimens and don't allow them to dry out if we don't have wet weather. The plants should establish over the winter, giving you a head start for spring.

Revamp your lawn. With all the autumn rain we've had, the ground will be soft enough to either turf or reseed a new lawn, or repair an old one. If you are laying new turf, good preparation is the key, which will mean removing weeds and stones, digging over the soil, adding compost or well-rotted farmyard manure and incorporating sharp grit on heavy soil, and levelling the area off to a fine tilth on which to sow seed or lay turf.

Divide perennials. Now is the perfect time to split those plants which have become congested while



GETTING TO WORK WITH THE SHEARS: Laying the groundwork in your garden now means that you will reap the benefits come next springtime

Get ahead with your garden

they are dormant but before the ground becomes too hard to dig them out.

Perennials which benefit from dividing every few years include hostas (but you'll need a knife to cut through the thick roots), cranesbill, geranium, montbretia, rudbeckia, helenium and aster.

Trim hedges, tidying evergreens which should remain neat until

spring. Evergreens should not put on much new growth during winter, so should save you the job of pruning them in spring, when you may risk disturbing nesting birds. Deciduous shrubs can be pruned into winter.

Weed out the worst culprits. If you do a final weed before the perennial weeds disappear for the winter, you should hopefully make your task lighter when they come back in

spring. Look out for ground elder, couch grass and bindweed, and try to dig up all the white roots which, if left in the ground, will just sprout up again next year.

Increase your stock. Take hardwood cuttings in late autumn to propagate shrubs including roses, willows, philadelphus, weigela and dogwoods.

Cut woody shoots for the base of

the current year's growth, trim below a leaf joint and remove the tip to leave the cuttings 20-30cm (8-12in) long.

Dip the base into hormone rooting powder, make a slit trench in a well cultivated but vacant area of the garden, push the cuttings in vertically, 30cm (12in) apart and firm the soil back around them, closing the trench.

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Don't believe the pro-frack hype

I WOULD like to make some points in answer to last week's article about the modern unconventional hydrocarbon industry.

The fracking that they want to do now has not been done 200 times in England – that was for conventional oil and gas.

The new-technology, high-pressure slickwater hydraulic fracturing for 'tight', or unconventional, fuel has been done once. It was near Blackpool and it caused earthquakes severe enough to crack walls.

The underground activity that has indeed happened for many years did not include such force or such poisonous substances as the modern techniques.

It is not true that it has caused no damage.

The hydrocarbons industry admits that all wells fail, some almost at once, some not for years.

How can it be right to drill a well through such a precious aquifer when it will leak, sooner or later? Highly toxic substances are used in the fracturing and much remains underground. How could it not get into the water?

One of the most frightening things to me is the density of the wells that would be needed.

There is not a lot down there and they would drill well after well after well.

Six to eight wells per square mile has been estimated.

Cuadrilla has admitted planning hundreds of wells between Blackpool and Preston. I Gas plans thousands between Manchester and Liverpool.

An aerial view of Southern Queensland is a frightening thing. It would be no different in Kent.

There are many more things wrong with this industry.

Those of us who are campaigning against it are not deluded – we just did some research.

We only ask that anyone who is in doubt does the same.

Well done to Richard Knox-Johnston, CPRE Kent and others who are protecting us.

Jean Snelgrove,
 Woodchurch

I know who I'd rather trust

GERWYN Williams, chief executive of the company that holds a permit to drill an exploratory borehole at Woodnesborough near Sandwich, accuses CPRE of being "ill-informed" about the risk of water contamination posed by gas extraction.

He claims that none of the drilling carried out in east Kent by the coal industry over the decades has ever led to an environmental issue or water contamination in the area.

It seems it is Mr Williams who is ill-informed.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Fracking argument is tough to support

I WAS pleased to see that your newspaper is pushing the subject of fracking into the limelight. It is time that the people who live in this area should be discussing the benefits, the hazards and the adverse living conditions that fracking offers us.

To be frank, I have already formed some conclusions, but if good sound evidence is produced that contradicts these, then I am open to persuasion.

Financial benefit: the multinationals that will eventually own the fracking rights in almost every region of the UK will have paid our government relatively small licensing fees and, ongoing, minimal amounts of Corporation Tax.

After that they will own all the gas they take out of the ground and keep ALL the vast profits. Not much in it for us, is there?

Stop the lights going out benefit: under EU rules the fracking multinationals can and will sell what will now be their gas at the highest price to whoever they want. The UK will have absolutely no priority claim on it. Fracking gas is not going to help much with 'keeping the lights on', is it?

Hazards: to my knowledge, fracking has been carried out previously in the UK but without using the multitude of toxic chemicals mixed with water, known as 'fracking fluid' or 'slickwater' that are so essential in creating a high-gas extraction rate.

It is these vast volumes of fracking fluid that are going to be our main health hazard. Once these vast variable mixtures of fluid chemicals get into our water supplies, and then into the land and then into our food chain, we will not be able to get them out.

Safety control: it is a hard fact that the government (whose fracking advisers are members of the multinational fracking companies) is in the process of removing our local authorities' safeguards so that there will be much lower safety standards for the fracking companies to meet.

As to where are the skilled government personnel who will monitor each and every site to these reduced standards, I don't think they exist or ever will exist.

But I could be wrong.

Fergus Timmins
 Chair of Ash village group
 Frack Free Ash

If he had referred to the British Geological Society and Environment Agency's Baseline Report Series: 5, The Chalk of the North Downs, Kent and East Surrey, he would have found the following statement: "Salinisation of surface waters and some groundwater has occurred in places as a result of discharges from the abandoned Kent coalfield.

"Pumping of groundwater from Eastry borehole, installed 30 years ago to assess the degree of mine-related pollution, has confirmed the poor quality of chalk groundwater in that area."

Contrary to Mr Williams's

assertion, campaigners in east Kent are extremely well-informed about the risks that coal-bed methane extraction poses to their scarce water supplies.

They know it does not initially involve hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') but will require the pumping out of the highly contaminated water lying on the coal bed.

This is reputedly five times as saline as the sea; spills or leakage of this water therefore pose considerable risks to the soil and aquifer.

I should add that the chair of CPRE Kent's environment group,

who has advised the charity on the risks of water contamination in east Kent, is Graham Warren, a hydrogeologist with more than 30 years' experience working for the Environment Agency and water authorities. I think most of us would be more inclined to trust Mr Warren's knowledge of the geology and water resources of east Kent than Mr Williams's.

Pat Marsh,
 secretary, Kent Green Party

Seek alternative to the dangers

I GREW up in Kent and during the 1970s there was great concern about terrible pollution in our rivers and streams. Much work has been done over the years to stop polluting the countryside.

Where there has been fracking, environmental damage takes place and land is polluted.

Water moves freely and a concoction of chemicals with water is going to go wherever it goes. No organisation of safety regulators is going to be able to control that once it is started.

The only reason people are prepared to even think about this is because they are misinformed, they do not care, or money is their only motivation beyond the well-being of their home planet, Earth.

There are many other methods of creating energy that contribute to our lives rather than risk them.

Frances Green, by email

EU trade deal with US is a risk

FURTHER to your article on the secretive deal being negotiated by EU and US trade representatives, there has been, as you rightly point out, the 38 Degrees petition and also a debate on Radio 4 and a similar-size article to your own in late October in The Irish Times written by Frank McDonald, its environment editor.

The Irish point out public unease on social and environmental rights.

Having been involved for a number of years in construction dispute resolutions, I believe that to have a mandatory tribunal system is moving away from a fair, proper, reasonable justice procedure, resulting in massive risks.

We must safeguard the NHS by excluding it if the EU does sign up to such an agreement.

You have quoted Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke's views as the Conservative policy and I note he has little time for debate or the public's views, instead preferring a dictatorial approach.

The Labour Party also considers it acceptable as it helps small business and our pharmaceutical industry.

Leslie Hallybone,
 chair of the Co-operative Party,
 Canterbury & Swale



Luddenham Church

by **Brian Summers,**
from **Faversham**

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Big decisions lie ahead on life-long journey of learning



PLANNING for your future is something which can be both intimidating and exhilarating.

After all, the decisions you make as a teenager can put you on the right track for the rest of your career.

And with the school leaving age changing – if you're born after September 1, 1997, you must now stay in full-time education or training until you're 18 – the opportunities are only going to increase.

So the question facing many now is just where to continue to study from the age of 16 onwards. And that is a decision only you, the student, can make based on your own requirements. The trick is to ensure you steer your own destiny by engaging in the process now to ensure you are best placed going forward.

Because it is now that the push begins to recruit students for the next

academic year, starting in September 2015.

Do you remain in the sixth form of your school, move to another, or perhaps opt instead for a more vocational course at one of the county's many colleges?

The full options are:

- Studying full-time in a school, college or with a training provider

- Working or volunteering, combined with part-time education or training or taking up an apprenticeship or traineeship.

And now is the time when you need to start planning for your future – even if you are waiting on the results of exams later this academic year to determine your next step.

If you are thinking of changing school, make sure you look on the school or college's website to find out when their open days are so you can look around, meet the teachers and see the facilities to help you decide.

There will be plenty of advice on offer – all you need to ensure you do is step up and engage with it. After all, it's for your benefit.

Continuing to study will widen your choice of careers, give you a better chance to earn money and show employers and universities the knowledge and skills you have.

Sixth forms vary a lot in what they offer. This can range from vocational courses and BTEC/OCR to AS/A level and the International Baccalaureate.

The choice, however, is yours. The only thing you have to make sure you do is be proactive in deciding your future.

In this guide, some of the schools and colleges offering courses highlight some of the benefits of enrolling with them – hopefully it will spark some ideas and thoughts about just where you should continue on your life-long journey of education.

Discover More in the 6th Form at Dover Christ Church Academy

POST 16 OPTIONS EVENING - Thursday 27th NOVEMBER 2014

Dover Christ Church Academy is pleased to be able to offer places in its expanding 6th form from September 2015...

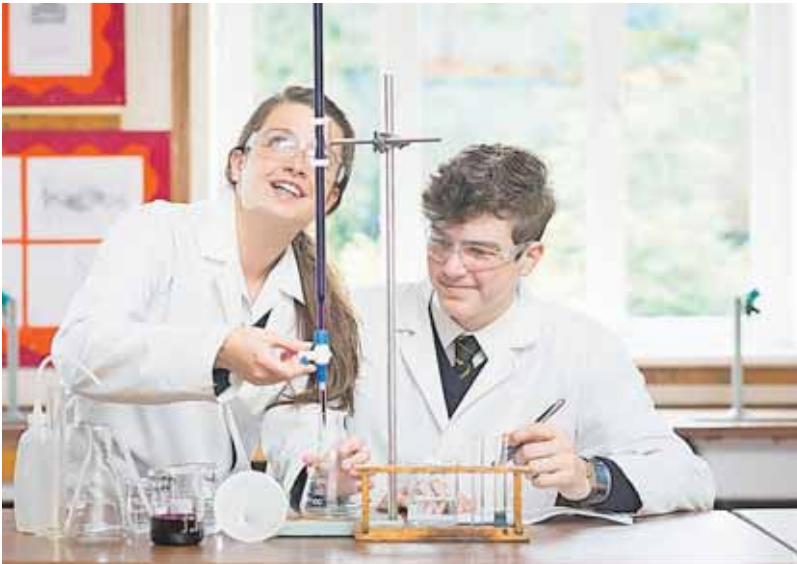
Our students benefit from a wide range of vocational and traditional A Level subjects on offer at the Academy from which they are guided to choose 4 courses. This year our Football Academy offers an exciting addition to our suite of qualifications enabling students to receive high quality input from professional coaches.

In addition to the educational benefits DCCA provides a supportive and caring environment which, with a strong pastoral support team, enables every student to reach their full potential. Optional Residential trips form part of the bespoke curriculum on offer including a trip across 'the pond' to New York.

For further information or to arrange a visit, please contact:
Miss Christie or Mr Bing on 01304 820126



Guide to Sixth Form Education



The sixth form at St Lawrence offers excellent academic opportunities alongside extensive co-curricular activities to provide the perfect stepping-stone to a successful university application and a career beyond.

With a traditional A-level curriculum that we believe offers the best route into top universities, we combine small and supportive class sizes with a vibrant and happy environment in which to work.

Facilities are outstanding, from the new theatre to the excellent sports facilities, but of even greater importance is the school culture, where individual pupils are encouraged and supported to excel.

There is a close sense of community in the school, with pupils forming friendships that last a lifetime.

University guidance is very detailed and includes additional classes for those considering applications for courses like medicine, leading to a very good success rate.

The generous provision of scholarships and bursaries allows many the chance to have an education that would otherwise be beyond their means.

The school is always happy to arrange individual visits with a chance to impartially discuss the best academic options for prospective pupils for A-levels and beyond.

To arrange a visit, contact Simon Heard, deputy head (registrar) on 01843 572931, or email admissions@slcuk.com, www.slcuk.com



THERE is a huge range of opportunities waiting for you at Bromley College of Further and Higher Education, which we will be showcasing at our two November Open Events.

Taking place on Saturday, November 15, and Wednesday, November 19, the events will give you the chance to see and experience some of the many courses that are on offer, as well as meeting tutors and current students.

From our brand new 14-16 College, which offers a real alternative to school, to our range of access and vocational courses for 16+ and higher-

education qualifications/degrees, you are sure to find a course that suits you.

Additionally, we launched our Hospitality, Food and Enterprise Career College in September, which provides 14- to 19-year-olds a chance to learn the practical skills they need for employment in the hospitality and catering industry while continuing to study for key GCSEs.

Current students will be whipping up some tasty treats at the Open Events for you to sample.

Prospective students can also find out more about our unique Bromley Advantage programme, which has

just launched. This complements each student's course – teaching employability skills to give career prospects a boost, ensuring you have exactly what employers are looking for.

Principal Mrs Sam Parrett says: "Bromley College is leading the way in progressive education – offering a huge range of opportunities for students from the age of 14 all the way through to adult learners of any age.

"Our Open Events are a fantastic chance for people to come along, chat with tutors and see just how many pathways to success are available to them."



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Sixth Form Open Evening

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Guide to Sixth Form Education

WHEN two very long-established grammar schools become one, what is the result?

Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School in Ramsgate is made up from the girls' Clarendon House Grammar School and the boys' Chatham House Grammar School in Ramsgate.

After a period when the two schools linked up in a federation, the natural choice was to see one complete system for all students.

One of the by-products of such a merger is one of the largest sixth forms in Kent. It is also one of the most successful, seeing very high numbers reach top universities across Europe, and the results in general bucking the national trend by continuing to improve.

One of the school's unique selling points is that the sixth form (known by many as CCVI – Chatham & Clarendon sixth form) is primarily housed in its own state-of-the-art building in the town, which was formerly the Cavendish Street Baptist Church.

Many original features have been left in the building, so that the students are surrounded by stained glass windows as they work on the Macs in the vast common room, which also houses a café and countless sofas and chairs.

A former student was quoted a few years ago as saying: "It's like Hogwarts with Macs!"

But the links of modernity coupled with tradition don't end there.

Students will have their lessons, lectures and tutorials delivered across the whole campus spread around Ramsgate – so they may be in a lecture theatre in the Clarendon House building at one point and in a study session in the library at Chatham House later on.

"I love the fact that for us sixth-formers it has a university feel, we get to move around and see loads of friends around the place," said Naomi Garrod, one of last year's two head students. We also get to see all the other pupils in the school and help them as prefects."

The school has maintained and developed the well-known traditional prefectorial system to support the

younger learners and to highlight the value that is still very much to the fore when one looks at the numerous honours boards around the place.

The House system too is still moving forward, the names reflecting the merger. The old names of the senior houses remain as before but are now double-barrelled to reflect the shared colours (eg Knights and Heaths are now one house with the colour blue).

The ancient competitions still carry on – for example the Curzon Picture (Chatham House's debating competition) continues to be a fiercely-fought competition among the very formidable debaters in the sixth form.

Such competitions, along with the countless extra-curricular activities available, mean that the school is able to cater to the tastes of dozens of different groups – from military fitness through to Amnesty International.

"You would be hard pushed to find many private schools with the opportunities that we provide free of charge" said head-teacher Debra Liddicoat.

"The young people love the sense of belonging to a long line of high-achievers that remains unbroken.

"By Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School being such a size, we can offer a superb array of choices of subject at A-level and have so many connections with businesses, groups and individuals keen to give something back to the school."

Owing to all state schools feeling the pinch of many years of cuts, not least in sixth-form funding, most schools and colleges have had to reduce subject choices and increase class sizes.

The only way for sixth-forms to have continued to improve when faced with such challenges is to be large enough to exploit the few opportunities available – be it in developing resources or acquiring extra funds. Chatham & Clarendon have been very fortunate to have come together when they did to capitalise in this vein.

Universities don't accept all qualifications – but every university accepts A-levels. This allows us to send students to the very best places every time.



6th Form Open Evening at Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School, Ramsgate

Chatham House (Lower School) Site | Tuesday November 27th 2014 | 6:00pm to 8:30pm

www.ccgrammarschool.co.uk

Guide to Sixth Form Education



St Edmund's Sixth Form provides opportunities for pupils to excel in and to enjoy the academic, sporting, musical, artistic and dramatic aspects of life, to take part in expeditions and enrichment activities, and to explore the potential for leadership and responsibility.

All sixth formers are affiliated to Houses where their tutors and Housemasters oversee their academic and pastoral progression.

In addition, the Head of Sixth Form organises and delivers a bespoke Sixth Form programme of talks and life skills, while the Head of Further Education and Careers and his team offer expert advice and guidance.

This all adds up to ensuring that pupils' Sixth Form experience is a positive one.

As well as a choice of 24 A-level subjects available at St Edmund's, the Extended Project Qualification programme is also well established as part of the Sixth Form curriculum and this option is frequently chosen by those who are academically ambitious.

Creativity and curiosity are encouraged and topics chosen are diverse.

Katherine Stacey, Upper Sixth pupil, is currently working on her project about marketing and said: "It is really satisfying to immerse myself in a subject of my choice and to be able to discuss my ideas with a supervisor who is genuinely interested in what I am researching."

Consistently excellent A-level grades enable pupils to accept offers at the top ranking universities in the country each year.

In summer 2014, 25 per cent of the year group achieve between 360-500 UCAS points (the equivalent of 3A to over 3A* grades per student) and the 96 per cent have chosen to go on to university (including Cambridge, UCL, Loughborough, St Andrews, Bath, Warwick).

It is also worth noting that, due to small class sizes and excellent teaching, St Edmund's is adding significant 'value added', with 50 per cent of candidates exceeding their nationally recognised ALIS prediction.

To find out more about St Edmund's can offer at Sixth Form, please contact Amanda Selmon on 01227 475601 or come along to the open evening on November 19.



Many people living in Kent do not realise that The Duke of York's Royal Military School now takes applications for secondary and Sixth Form students wishing to board with us as they study for their GCSEs and A-levels.

The school has recently undergone a £24.9 million investment which has included a brand new Sixth Form House for Years 12 and 13.

We understand that Sixth Form is one of the most important parts of a student's education and in Centenary House our students share common aims: to develop academic rigour, close friendships, career ambitions and independence in a caring and lively environment.

With the support of teachers, tutors and our Head of Sixth Form, over 90 per cent of stu-

dents secured their first or second choice of university in 2014.

Graded 'Good' in all categories by Ofsted, parents looking for an affordable quality education for their children can now apply to us.

As a full state boarding school, your child's education is free. You will only pay £3,665 per term (£10,995 per year) to cover the boarding costs.

We are extremely proud of our military ethos and traditions, and our students enjoy ceremonial parades, CCF and a variety of sports and activities.

Set in 150 acres of Kentish countryside, the school is ideally located for quick links to London and Europe.

Call 01304 245073 to book your place at our Sixth Form Open Day on November 15 or visit www.doyrms.com for more details.



St Edmund's School Canterbury



Sixth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 19th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm

**Helping to make the right choices that
will lead to a rewarding future**

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www.stedmunds.org.uk

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The Duke of York's Royal Military School

Sixth Form Open Day Saturday 15 November 2014

- Study for A Levels at our Unique and Iconic School
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- Our new Sixth Form boarding accommodation is modern and welcoming, with twin and single ensuite bedrooms in Centenary House.
- Our strong Dukie community is like no other; you will find that being a Dukie is a lifelong experience.

Why choose us for Sixth Form?

- Living and studying away from home in a close-knit and friendly community will prepare you well for university.
- We combine a culture of academic excellence, with caring for the individual.
- Our Head of Sixth Form strongly supports all students applying to University (over 90% secured their first or second choice in 2014).
- You will enjoy an independent school lifestyle with sport, music, drama and CCF to help develop individual talents.

Come to our Sixth Form Open Day. Meet the Teaching, House and Ceremonial staff, tour the site, view our new boarding accommodation and experience taster lessons.

**Call our Registrar, Miss Caroline Cant,
on 01304 245073 to book a place.**

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Suffolk Coast

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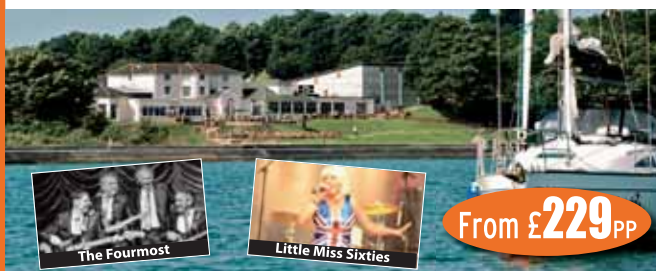
QUOTE:
US11-KOS

3 nights half board-plus • Friday 14 November, 2014

We have booked the entire Pontins Pakefield resort for this over 40s party break. Come with us to the seaside, near Lowestoft, and find out why guests return again and again to our exclusive, themed breaks. Celebrate the arrival of the festive season with original stars from the 60s.

INCLUDED: 3 free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners



From £229^{PP}

SWINGING SIXTIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Warner
Norton Grange
Isle of Wight

FREE
DRINKS

OVER
40s
ONLY

QUOTE:
SS11-KOS

3 nights half board-plus • Friday 28 November, 2014

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular private Christmas Party venue ever.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - upgrades available
- Car ferry crossing worth £45



From £209^{PP}

SWINGING SIXTIES SEASIDE PARTY

Warner
Corton
Suffolk Coast

FREE
DRINKS

OVER
40s
ONLY

QUOTE:
CW2-KOS

3 nights half board-plus • Friday 6 February, 2015

Join us for a private party that takes a trip down memory lane at Warner Corton, on the Suffolk Coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy live entertainment from The Fortunes, Union Gap and a Tribute to Frankie Valli, plus Free Drinks every night and lots of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - upgrades available from £234pp



£129^{PP}

SUPER 70s CHRISTMAS PARTY

Pontins
Pakefield
Suffolk Coast

FREE
DRINKS

OVER
40s
ONLY

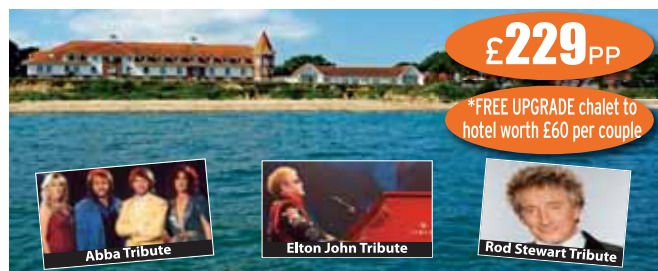
QUOTE:
MS11-KOS

3 nights half board-plus • Friday 21 November, 2015

Our Super 70s Christmas Party takes us back in time with some great music and entertainment. We've reserved the whole of Pontins Pakefield resort for over 40s only. Enjoy the party spirit with Free Drinks and lots of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: 3 Free Drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts



£229^{PP}

*FREE UPGRADE chalet to hotel worth £60 per couple



MAMMA MIA & SUPER 70s CARRY ON NEW YEAR PARTY

Warner
Bembridge
Isle of Wight

FREE
DRINKS

OVER
40s
ONLY

QUOTE:
BE1-KOS

3 nights half board-plus • Friday 9 January, 2015

Our private party extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane at our favourite Warner hotel. Enjoy a gala New Year's Eve party with countdown to midnight and great entertainment.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment + Panto
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - hotel upgrades available with rooms in main building from £259pp - *£229pp when you book by 30 November
- Car ferry crossing worth £45
- Add Come Dancing package with dance tuition, social dancing and a Gala New Year's Eve Ball for just £50pp extra



£129^{PP}

SPRING BACK TO THE SIXTIES PARTY

Pontins
Pakefield
Suffolk Coast

FREE
DRINKS

OVER
40s
ONLY

QUOTE:
US3-KOS

3 nights half board-plus • Friday 13 March, 2015

Join us for a private party that evokes the heady days of the 60s at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk Coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy live entertainment from The Tremeloes and the Swinging Blue Jeans as well as tributes to The Beatles and Buddy Holly, plus Free Drinks every night and lots of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: 3 Free Drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - upgrade available

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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Lexus aims to push rivals

The premium brand's all-new compact crossover shows a tough new design stance in its latest updated version to complement Lexus quality and value

JAPAN is famous for the Samurai sword, but there has been little of its legendary cutting edge seen on Lexus styling over the years.

However, Toyota's premium marque now has a big deep grille as its corporate 'face' and the all-new Lexus NX 'premium compact crossover' weaves that feature into an overall design both sharp and harmonious.

It includes flared arches and chunky rear quarters, and yet the NX is also one of the most aerodynamic SUVs, with consequent economy benefits.

Apparently, the car's designers wanted it to appear as if forged from a single piece of metal – a bit like making a sword, then.

Typically for a brand that prides itself on great build quality and comprehensive standard equipment, the NX looks good value, too, being priced from £29,495.

Though fitting into the range below the existing RX SUV, the NX's sporty cabin looks capacious and, using the motor

industry's favoured benchmark, Lexus boasts it will take four golf bags in the boot, though total space here depends on whether you have the petrol-electric hybrid version (555 litres) or forthcoming petrol turbo (580 litres).

And which are the targets here? Audi's Q3 and Q5 crossover/SUVs are clearly in the sights, as is the BMW X3, but the bull's eye would be the coveted Range Rover Evoque.

It certainly has the presence to be a threat, even if there won't be a diesel: established Lexus practice is to offer a petrol-electric hybrid powertrain instead, the NX version delivering up to 56mpg (combined cycle). There will be an all-new petrol option next year.

Apart from the NX joining their displays, Kent's Lexus dealers have another reason to celebrate: their sites have helped earn a second successive 'Best Car Dealer' rating in the prestigious Auto Express Driver Power survey.



UPDATED: The new look aims to give the Lexus the pulling power to close in on popular rival models in an always competitive sector of the market

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Model shown is the Alfa MiTo 875cc TB 105 bhp QV Line at £16,820 & the Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 bhp Progression at £18,750 incl. Luna Pearl Metallic Paint at £510. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa MiTo & Giulietta range: Urban 28.8 – 64.2 mpg (9.8 – 4.4 l/100km); Extra Urban 53.3 – 97.4 mpg (5.3 – 2.9 l/100km); Combined 40.4 – 80.7 mpg (7.0 – 3.5 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 162 – 90 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

Promotion available on new Alfa MiTo & Giulietta models registered by 31st December 2014. *Alfa MiTo available with 0% APR Representative on Hire Purchase available with nil deposit for up to a 3 year term. **Alfa Giulietta Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Alfa Romeo Preferenza PCP. £5,463 optional final payment, 48 month contract. †With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. We work with a number of creditors including Alfa Romeo Financial Services, Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. †The Sales Event offer consists of £1000 Contribution incl. VAT which is valid on Alfa MiTo & an additional £750 Contribution incl. VAT for Alfa Giulietta models when ordered between 4 November – 23 December 2014. This offer is over & above all current advertised retail offers during this period. Vehicles must be registered by 31 December 2014 & the offer can be used in-conjunction with PCP, HP and Cash sales, Retail Sales only, excludes Fleet & Personal Contract Hire. Terms & conditions apply.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km.*

[^]Free Fuel offer not available on Zafira, Corsa Excite and New Corsa models, other terms, conditions and exclusions apply. £500 inc. VAT Free Fuel will be paid via pre-paid debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/weekend or contact your local Retailer for details. Participating Retailers only. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24. All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders between 7 and 10 November 2014, which are then registered by 31 December 2014. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

Twingo aims to make it third time lucky

French marque's third-generation Twingo city car model is radical, clever, cheap to run and, above all, fun. So could its flexibility help to drive significant sales?

T might sound like a chocolate bar or kid's toy, but Renault could have a big hit with the latest Twingo city car.

It would be third time lucky in the UK for the French marque, having never sold the original Twingo here; that car came out in 1992 and soldiered on in production in South America as late as 2012.

It was a capacious little fun car with a 'smiley face' front and several innovations like a sliding back seat for juggling rear passenger and boot space.

Explanations for British buyers missing out ranged from problems with creating a right-hand-drive version to Renault being afraid the car would cannibalise sales of the more profitable Clio.

No such worries on the latter point with the second-generation Twingo (2007-2014), which was probably too dreary to threaten the Clio; nobody even cried 'Foul!' when Top Gear's Jeremy Clarkson drove one into a harbour.

You wouldn't call the latest car dull, though. With a five-door rear engine/rear-driven layout developed jointly with Germany's Smart, it is ultra compact at 3.59 metres, 10cm



shorter than the old car, and has a turning circle of just 8.59 metres with front wheels turning 45 degrees – a true city car for tight turns and parking spaces.

More importantly perhaps, it has a 12cm-longer wheelbase (2.49 metres) delivering a good-size cabin

and decent space in the back.

Its weakest dimension is a modest boot dictated by the rear engine and, unlike some cars with similar format, there is no compensating luggage space under the bonnet; Renault says this area was needed to beef up the crash safety offered by



such a compact car.

To compensate for the modest 188-litre boot, the rear seatbacks can be set in a 'cargo' position at 90 degrees to boost volume to 219 litres while still carrying two rear passengers. With the 50:50 split-folding rear seats lowered, the boot

Renault Twingo	
Price:	from £9,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	VW Up!

space rises to 980 litres and a folding front passenger seat comes as standard – unique for the city car segment.

You might now ask whether the rear engine layout and consequent light front end re-creates the Achilles Heel of classics like the VW Beetle and older Porsche 911s.

But the Twingo fields all the modern driving aids to keep the little car on track. Indeed, it is good fun, thanks to its two lively three-cylinder petrol power options: a naturally aspirated 999cc 70bhp, and 898cc 89bhp turbocharged unit.

The former is cheaper to buy and run and doesn't feel slow even if the 0-62mph figure of 14.5 seconds is modest and, besides, the lavish Twingo customisation options are what most customers will be more interested in.

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NX 300h Luxury			
Term	36 Months	Guaranteed future value / optional final payment	£19,894.50
35 Monthly payments	£399.00		
Cash price	£35,140.00	Total amount payable	£40,059.32
Customer deposit	£6,199.82	Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	3.55%
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Representative Example

NX

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NX 300h prices start from £29,495. Model shown is NX 300h Luxury £35,140, including optional metallic paint at £645. *6.9% APR Representative available over 36 months on a Lexus Connect (PCP) scheme with 0%-35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Only on new retail sales of NX 300h when ordered and proposed for finance between 1 October 2014 and 6 January 2015, registered and financed by 31 March 2015 through Lexus Financial Services at participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 miles at 12 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Lexus Centre are independent of Lexus Financial Services, Lexus Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC, Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. They are provided for comparability purposes, and may not reflect actual driving experience.

NX 300h Luxury fuel consumption and CO₂ figures: urban 53.3 mpg (5.3 l/100km), extra-urban 55.4 mpg (5.1 l/100km), combined 54.3 mpg (5.2 l/100km), 121g/km CO₂ (17% BIK).

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Week ending November 9, 2014 61

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Customer deposit	£2,355	Optional final payment	£4,292	Fixed interest rate p.a.	5.87%
Cash price	£9,995	Option to purchase fee	£149	6.9% APR representative	
Total amount of credit	£7,640	Total amount payable	£11,647		



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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for All-New Renault Twingo SCe 70 are: urban 50.44 (5.6); extra-urban 72.43 (3.9); combined 62.77 (4.5). The official CO₂ emissions are 105g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

4+ Terms and exclusions apply. 4+ package available to non-business customers on new Renault vehicles. Warranty 4 years/100,000 miles and routine servicing 4 years/48,000 miles (whichever comes first). Servicing package available to Renault Selections customers only; alternatively can be purchased for just £299. Visit renault.co.uk/4plus for full details. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FL. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). Terms and conditions apply. Our dealership introduces customers to a limited number of financial providers including RCI Financial Services Ltd. Offer based on 6,000 miles pa, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on featured new vehicles when ordered by 31 December 2014 and registered by 31 March 2015. Car shown with optional Powder Blue paint at £225.

main dealer

Servicing



Buyers love their dealer 'history'

PROTECT a hefty investment by keeping your new car's servicing up to date and having repairs carried out promptly and competently.

The traditional guarantee used to be a full main dealer service history, a reassuring record that everything required for the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

But this became seen as a restrictive practice, so the EU made it illegal in 2002 for

manufacturers to insist on cars being maintained by their franchise network to uphold the guarantee, which opened the way for independent garages and servicing centres to take on the work.

Nevertheless, many car-buyers still believe main dealer servicing is best to maintain reliability and the part exchange/secondhand value of the car, since used-car-buyers will usually pay a premium for a full main dealer service history, particularly on sophisticated models.



Sceptics argue that this perceived premium is wiped out by higher main dealer service costs, but franchised networks have raised their game since the 2002 legislation.

Indeed, with car sales and profits squeezed during the recession, dealers have aimed to

be more competitive on servicing and ancillaries like tyres, while delivering better customer service.

They also foster the perception that only main dealers' service technicians can know a brand's cars as well they do, while 'all makes' centres must spread expertise across many marques.

And dealers know that happy service customers keep coming back, each time seeing the latest new cars just feet from the service desk – one day soon, they may buy again.

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DATE	March 2014
ACCOUNT NUMBER	987654321
YOUR REF.	158753
OUR REF.	357951
DEALER NAME	DEALER

QTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
1	RENAULT EXPRESS SERVICE AND MOT	1	£159.00
1	100% PEACE OF MIND	1	£00.00
1	WHILE-YOU-WAIT APPOINTMENTS	1	£00.00
1	QUALIFIED RENAULT TECHNICIANS	1	£00.00
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1	1-YEAR GUARANTEE ON ALL PARTS & LABOUR	1	£00.00
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1	FREE MOT RETEST	1	£00.00
SUB TOTAL			£159.00

TOTAL TO PAY, ONLY £159.00

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Is quick-fit option the best option?

With the costs of everyday living seemingly hitting ever-higher levels, it is tempting to save on our motoring budgets by heading to the nearest fast-fit centre rather than going to a main dealer... good move or bad?

It's tempting to try to save the car budget by using a local 'quick/fast-fit' centre.

These have prospered as drivers try to save on motoring 'consumables':

exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock absorbers, air-conditioning checks and routine services.

But main dealers have hit back, reckoning that if drivers are still using their service bays, they'll be open to realistic deals on such items to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop purchase.

Using a main dealer also guarantees genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability.

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing, has encouraged getting bodyshop repairs done either by the franchise or one that

gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from quick-fit rivals by offering menu pricing: a customer can decide what he wants and know in advance what it will cost.

Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via a finance or servicing scheme covering several years; pioneers here were sister brands BMW and MINI, using their

Inclusive and TLC schemes respectively.

Dealers may also offer a loyalty scheme to retain owners of older models rather than see them defect to the non-franchised sector because those owners believe their car's lower value does not warrant the higher perceived cost of main dealer servicing.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fitters is longer opening hours: dealers realise many customers want to drop their car off early on their way to work and collect at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Centralised bookings can often be made, too, so customers living midway between franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.



DEALS ON WHEELS: Check whether your main dealer can offer a competitive price and one-stop shop if you damage tyres or an exhaust on your new Skoda Octavia, Peugeot 308 or Nissan Qashqai



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Air con is not solely for summer

Don't forget to keep your all-important temperature system in good order during the chilly winter months

AIR conditioning for cars arrived in the USA in 1933, but it was not until the 1990s that it began to be commonplace on UK cars – now we often wonder how we coped without it in summer.

Not so in winter, when systems tend to be neglected, yet it can be a boon for demisting windcreens fast. Unfortunately, it's on these occasions that the system is often found to have failed.

Most car manufacturers recommend that air conditioning be re-gassed or charged every two years, and some motorists ask for the system to be checked at every annual service.

Air con loses about 10 per cent of its gas every year and it is standard industry advice to run the system for a few minutes regularly outside of the warm months, just to keep everything in order or highlight the need for servicing before it is to be used in earnest.



GET IT CHECKED TOO:
Dealers are usually competitive on air conditioning checks and re-gassing.

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For ŠKODA vehicles 3 years (from first MOT) up to 10 years old, excluding V6 models. National Pricing is available to customers at participating ŠKODA retailers only. All prices are (where applicable) inclusive of standard parts, labour, oil and VAT and come with a two-year parts and labour warranty. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Further terms and conditions apply, please ask your ŠKODA retailer for details.

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PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327

FEMALE young 47yrs red hair, blue eyes 4'11 VGSOH adventurous, loves outdoors but also cosy nights in, smoker seeks attractive male. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 441925

WIDOW 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTN not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel No: 0905 002 1891 Box No: 407953

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting lots of interests WLTN likeminded caring, happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169

JANE, 40s, tall, blonde leggy lady, honest and keen to meet gent for fun times. I can make you happy! Tel No: 0905 002 1895 Box No: 361745

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053

LINDA 37, green eyes, attractive, bubbly size 12, enjoys cosy nights in, text chats, seeking tallish fun guy for meals out, pubs, clubs and spending quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411033

64YR old lady, seeking male for friendship, companionship, outings and interesting conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411975

CAROLINE 39yr old pretty blonde looking for handsome caring man to put the sparkle back into my life and make each other feel special. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411891

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411229

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no passing up potential soul mate so thought I'd give it a go. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I'd give it a go. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 11ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775

JANET 5ft 8ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be wined, dined and romanced. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301

SARAH 25 petite slim attractive blonde student, enjoys keeping fit, looking good, socialising, going out, being a mum WLTN similar fun genuine guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411537

JULIE attractive outgoing female with a very young attitude, loves running, living life, travel, WLTN someone special to make my life complete, hope you're out there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411513

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit active, WLTN fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411887

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I'd give it a go. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873

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MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be wined, dined and romanced. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301

WOULD you like to bounce into spring with me and onwards? Widow late 60's, enjoy most things in life, looking for someone to enjoy them with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395

LADY 60, size 12, easy going, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411301

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit active, WLTN fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411887

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I'd give it a go. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 11ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775

JANET 5ft 8ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

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BUSTY Caribbean lady who loves music, dance and singing, looking for nice older guy for mutual adult no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410305

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OACH, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411045

SATURDAY night blues! Home alone again and looking for male companionship. Blonde, slim, 32yrs, attractive, what are you waiting for? Call me if you're normal and lovely. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408867

SUSAN 29 green eyes, dark hair, slim, looking for Mr tall dark and handsome to take me out, enjoy adult times without complications just fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410957

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

MALE 71, 5ft 10ins, medium build, N/S, likes gardening, dogs, seeks female, 65-71 for friendship/companionship and outings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411587

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351

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ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409663

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421



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*EG send WINK 123456 to 80098 80098 costs £1.50 per message. To STOP text STOP to 80098. Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd. SW4 7BX. Need Help? Call 0207 720 7130

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-going female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405875

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homely, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1



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Care Staff

Residential Care Home based in Doddington, Sittingbourne requires a **Wakeful Night Staff** to cover 7 nights per month. Own transport essential due to location of the Home. For further details please contact **Sally Brooks** on 01795 886220



DMS is a leading mortgage arrears visit company in the UK, undertaking visits for a large proportion of the finance industry.

Due to our continued success, we are now looking to recruit additional self-employed Mortgage Arrears Field Agents. Whilst this is not a sales position, successful applicants will be very professional and ideally from a financial services background. This type of work will involve meeting with Customers at their homes and working out sustainable arrears repayment solutions on their behalf.

Full training will be given and we would ask that you contact Alison Bushell on 01635 517013 or apply online at www.dmsarrearsolutions.co.uk.

DMS operates an Equal Opportunities Policy.

EMLC:

Assessors

Required (Freelance)

EMLC is a national leadership charity with a large national contract to assess Middle and Senior leaders and Aspiring Head teachers in schools and academies across England.

We are looking to increase our pool of freelance assessors who can assess the Middle and Senior leader qualification; you will need experience in assessing evidence against criteria.

If you are interested in the Aspiring Head Teachers qualification you will need to be a serving Head Teacher or have Headship experience.

This role is home based.

There are 6-8 assessment windows across the year and you would be required to undertake a minimum of 15 assessments in each window.

For further details and an application pack and role specification please contact Rhian Thomas at rhian.thomas@emlc.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is Friday 14th November 2014.

Please visit our website for further information about us: www.emlc.co.uk



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Rumbar Limited of Alberrys Wine Bar, 38 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a Premises Licence as follows:

The provision of live music from 12:00 to 01:00hrs Every Day; recorded music and sale of alcohol from 10:00 to 02:00hrs Sunday to Wednesday and 10:00 to 03:00hrs Thursday to Saturday; performances of dance from 12:00 to 02:00hrs Sunday to Wednesday and 12:00 to 03:00hrs Thursday to Saturday; late night refreshment from 23:00 to 02:30hrs Sunday to Wednesday and 23:00 to 03:30hrs Thursday to Saturday. Premises to be open from 10:00 to 02:30hrs Sunday to Wednesday and 10:00 to 03:30hrs Thursday to Saturday; On New Year's Eve all activities to continue from the end of Permitted Hours until the beginning of Permitted Hours on New Year's Day.

The above for the premises 'Alberrys Wine Bar' situated at 38 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 28/11/2014. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY
LICENSING ACT 2003
PREMISES LICENCE**

TAKE NOTICE THAT I
ANNA BORAKOWSKA
Being the occupier(s)/owner(s)/applicant(s) of the undermentioned premises,
KRAM POLISH DELICATESSEN, 93, HIGH STREET, ORPINGTON, KENT, BR6 0LF
Have applied to the Council of the London Borough of Bromley to allow the following licensable activities to take place:
RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOL:
MONDAY TO SATURDAY 09:00 TO 22:00, SUNDAY 10:00 TO 18:00
This is an application to vary the existing Premises Licence/Club Premises Certificate
Any person wishing to object to the application should do so by giving notice in writing stating the grounds of objection to the Environmental Health & Trading Standards, Licensing and Business Support, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH, within 28 days. Persons objecting to the application should be prepared to attend in person at a public hearing before a Committee of the Council.
Signed: Anna Borakowska
Date: 30th October 2014

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that RAJARATNAM SUTHAKHARAN of 56 Wincheap, Canterbury has applied to Canterbury City Council for the VARIATION of a Premises Licence to vary the hours for supply of alcohol for consumption off premises: From 07:00-21:00 Monday to Sunday To 07:00-0:00 Monday to Sunday and allow for provision of late night refreshment from 23:00 to 0:00 hrs every day for the premises STEVENS NEWS, 56 Wincheap, Canterbury CT1 3RS A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing> or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 04/12/2014. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

PLANNING



**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

- Y14/1244/SH** - 38 Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2RE - Works to a Pine tree situated within a conservation area comprising crown lift to 3 metres and clean recent cuts back to branch collar
- Y14/1149/SH** - 58 - 60 & 62 Shorncliffe Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2NQ - Proposed residential development of 42 flats arranged in three separate four-storey buildings, following the demolition of the existing structures and including the creation of associated vehicular accesses
- Y14/1234/SH#** - Water Tower Madeira Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Reduction in height by approximately one third of a Poplar tree situated within a conservation area
- Y14/1189/SH#** - Brenzett Place Farm Yard Ivychurch Road Brenzett Kent - Demolition of remaining ruins of walls of listed barn
- Y14/1233/SH†** - The Barn Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the felling of a Holly and the reduction in height by 3 metres of two Laurels.
- Y14/1026/SH** - Channel Tunnel Terminal Ashford Road Newington Folkestone Kent - Erection of a High Voltage Direct Current converter station and associated plant together with an access road and 2.4m high palisade fencing.
- Y14/0678/SH** - Flat A 98 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent CT20 2PP - Installation of UPVC double glazed windows to front side and rear of flat (excluding double sets of doors to bedroom) and UPVC kitchen door.
- Y14/1235/SH#** - Frostland Farm Newchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0DZ - Listed Building Consent for the erection of new partition walls to form ensuite bathrooms to 1st floor; installation of two windows and replacement of existing window with French doors.

Representations can be made in writing either on line on the Council's website, by email to planning@shepway.gov.uk or in writing to the Head of Planning and Environmental Health, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY. Please always quote the application reference number. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. Please note that any representations received will be publically viewable on the Council's website.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
- + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

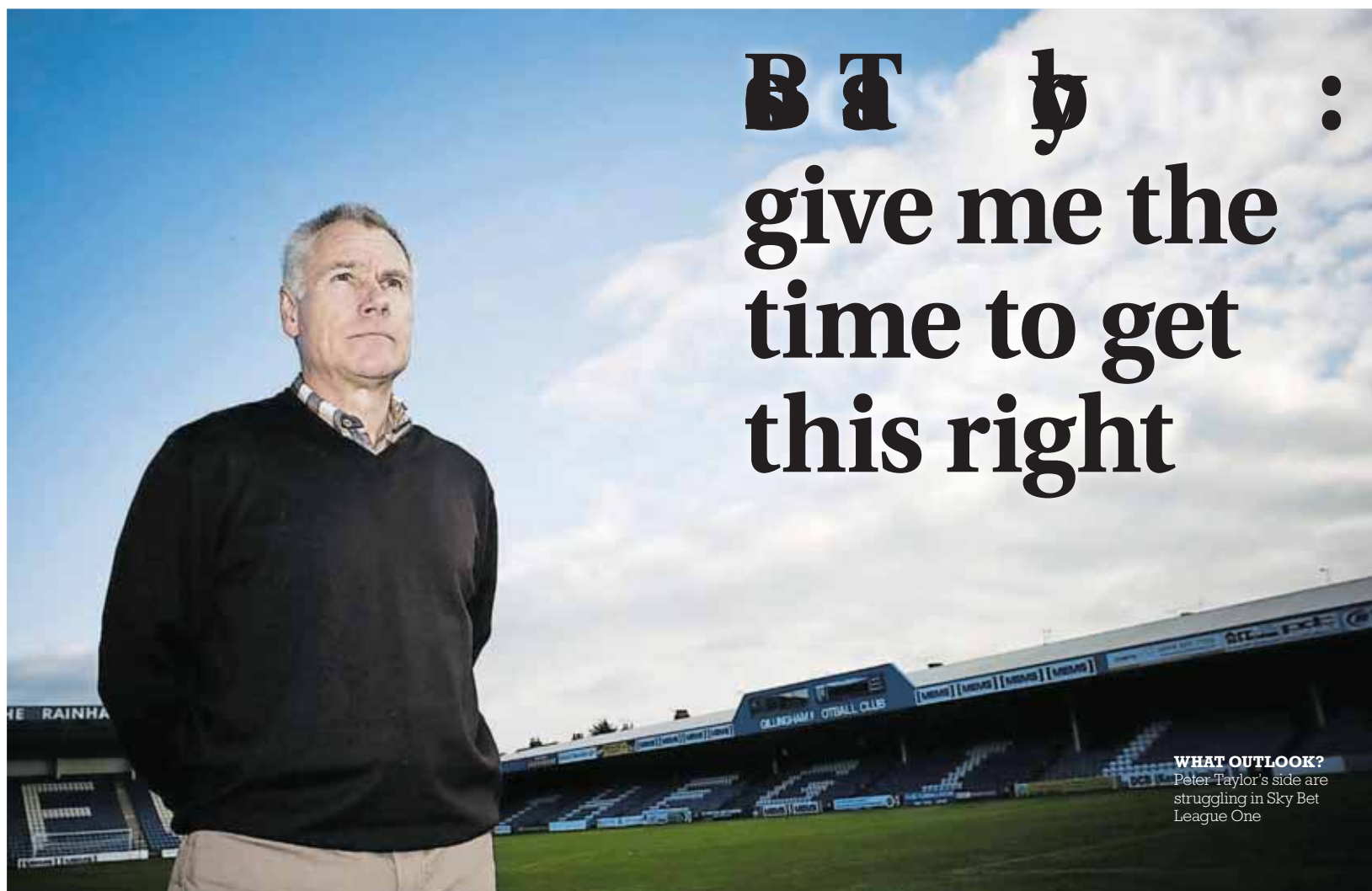
Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

C Lewis, Head of Planning and Environmental Health Shepway District Council

YOUR PUBLIC IS OUR PUBLIC

To place your legal notices call **01233 653465** or email **jerry.barrett@archant.co.uk**

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BTb : give me the time to get this right

WHAT OUTLOOK?

Peter Taylor's side are struggling in Sky Bet League One

Gills manager says that he will use all his experience to help pull side out of the relegation quagmire

Gillingham

By Dave Mairs

dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

THE clocks have only just gone back, but Gillingham supporters are already wondering whether time is ticking on the club's stay in Sky Bet League One.

The fans' forums have already moved on from discussing manager Peter Taylor's tactics to whether he should remain in the position for very much longer.

It would be unfair to suggest that the clamour for his removal is deafening or indeed unanimous.

Many still feel he should be given time to pull the club out of the relegation zone in which they now sit, but eight league games without a win and, together with Yeovil Town and Crewe Alexandra, just 14 points – the lowest tally in the division – means the spectre of a drop into League Two cannot be ignored.

It is the upset of those two demonstrations that, in the eyes of many of the club's supporters, makes the prospect of a third drop in eight seasons untenable.

Some would say that such an event would merely confirm Gillingham's status as a 'yo-yo club', destined forever to be bouncing between English football's third and fourth flights.

But Gillingham have moved on from that level. Whatever fans' opinions of chairman Paul Scally – and

they can differ wildly – Gillingham have been a very different club since he took the helm.

Five seasons in English football's second flight, the first time the club had ever reached such heights; an FA Cup quarter-final against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, the furthest the club had progressed in the competition in their history; and three Wembley play-off final appearances... these have been riches indeed for the club's fans, who had for so long been starved of success in any form.

The lows in this otherwise unprecedented run of form came in the form of relegation to the bottom tier of English professional football in both 2008 and 2010.

It is the upset of those two demonstrations that, in the eyes of many of the club's supporters, makes the prospect of a third drop in eight seasons untenable.

Their club need to regain a momentum, they say. Remember the years of the late 1990s and early 2000s and here were a club who knew where they were going. They had purpose, they had a force.

But with the two most recent home games both attracting attendances of fewer than 5,000 fans, a period of decline capped by yet another relegation could take a long time to reverse at every level.

And on Thursday Taylor acknowledged the parlous position of both him and his team.

"I do understand the supporters because they want their team to do well and when we played Crewe, Yeovil and Peterborough here I'm sure they were happy with the situation, as we all were, but since then it has been a very poor run, and an unacceptable run," he said.

"I totally understand the feelings and I'm sure the majority of supporters feel that change at the top will be the answer.

"I hope I get more time. I'm desperate to turn it around, I'm very determined to turn it around and I will use every bit of experience I've got to get the best out of players to try and get us a result.

"I am realistic. I know I won't be the most popular per-

“If the chairman was to pick the phone up and say that I’ve had enough time I couldn’t complain because one win in 12 isn’t good enough”

Peter Taylor,

on his position at Gillingham

son at the minute, but that's football life. I'm sure there are other managers around the country feeling exactly the same.

"I would like to stay here longer. I've enjoyed the training pitch, preparing the players and the job, but I haven't enjoyed the results, so I am the same as any supporter would be in that situation.

"I feel the squad of players are good enough. We are not showing it at the moment, but we did earlier in the season.

"We've had players out for long periods – [captain] Doug Loft for instance has only played eight league games for the club when we were hoping he would be the key man in midfield from day one."

While accepting the reality of the situation, Taylor did ask fans to back

the players in the forthcoming battle to stay up.

"If the chairman was to pick the phone up and say that I've had enough time I couldn't complain because one win in 12 isn't good enough.

"I would ask any of the fans to come here and help the players. I know there will be a few things said in frustration on the day, but I want the players to earn their support."

Loft, meanwhile, told the club website: "We need to get off this losing run and I think we have enough in our squad and team to do that.

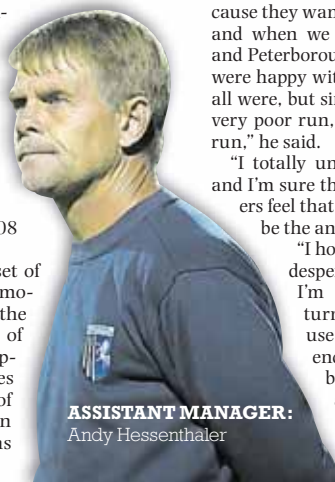
"I think we've let the manager down a bit, to be honest. We are creating chances, but I think we need to get a lot more balls in the box.

"There is nothing wrong with the boys' attitude – everyone is disappointed and angry that we are not putting the wins together and there is no one more disappointed than the players."

It's difficult to believe that Gillingham haven't got the players to get out of the mire, but everyone involved with the club knows the change in results has to come soon.

If momentum is this season to be defined solely by survival in League One, then so be it, as it can only be conjectured how damaging relegation could prove.

Thankfully, the past two decades have shown that there is very much more to Gillingham than a role as one of English football's yo-yo clubs.



ASSISTANT MANAGER:
Andy Hessenthaler

Ice hockey



BLADES RUNNERS:

Arron Strawson, this picture, and Frankie Harvey, below

Pictures: DAVID TREVALLION

Dynamos put Devils to sword

INVICTA Dynamos beat Cardiff Devils 7-3 at Silver Blades Gillingham on Saturday last week to strengthen their mid-table position in NIHL South Division 1.

New signing Frankie Harvey made a promising debut as the Dynamos ran out comfortable winners.

Sadly, it was a different story the following day, when Dynamos went down 9-1 away to Swindon Wildcats in the English Challenge Cup.



Kickboxers' star turn in Tuscany

Gravesend fighters take home five of England's 11 world golds

Martial arts

By Dave Mairs

dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

A MARTIAL-ARTS club from Gravesend has proved itself one of the strongest in the country courtesy of four of its members who between them took home seven medals from last month's world championships in Italy.

The Unified World Championships in Tuscany brought together the biggest organisations in the world of martial arts for a four-day event that determined the world champions in a range of categories.

Some 10,000 competitors from 60 countries were present, with teams travelling from as far as the US, Canada, New Zealand, Ukraine, China, Malaysia and the Philippines.

IKF England took a team of 26 fighters from different gyms, including four from Star Kickboxing in Gravesend.



THE MIGHTY ATOM: Phoebe Cumiskey won three gold medals at the Unified World Championships

Of 11 golds for IKF England, Star Kickboxing brought home five of them. They also took two bronzes.

Phoebe Cumiskey, 11, nicknamed The Mighty Atom, won three golds in the light-contact, point-stop and K1 categories.

Hayley Ward, 18, took both light-

contact and full-contact gold medals.

Tina Harvey and Bobby Garland, meanwhile, both won bronze medals in their adult kickboxing fights.

All endured some of the toughest kickboxing opponents in the world and did their team – and country – proud.

A club spokesman said: "The Star Kickboxing family are elated to welcome home their team of champions and to get back in the gym to focus on their future challenges."

"This tremendous success just shows what hard work, dedication, determination and, most importantly, fantastic coaches can achieve. Well done, Star Kickboxing!"

The club are based at Unit 9, Apex Business Park, Queens Farm Road, Gravesend DA12 3HU.

■ For more information, phone Paul Haworth on 07921 779852 or Leigh Haworth on 07970 688007.

Alternatively, email dark-side@blueyonder.co.uk or paul.haworth@gmail.com.



FIGHTING TALK: Kane Baker, right, is in confident mood for his title bout

Boxer Baker: I'm going to make that title mine

GRAVESEND welterweight Kane Baker says he is preparing to do a job on his next opponent when he returns to the ring this month for the most important fight of his career.

Baker, 20, will be challenging reigning champion Anthony Ayinde for the Queensbury Boxing League's Novice title at the Millennium Effingham Park Hotel in West Sussex at the competition's televised season finale on Saturday, November 22.

The north Kent fighter, who represents the Punchout Academy in Dartford, has warned the champion ahead of the clash that his reign is on borrowed time.

The challenger was last in action in September when he snapped the unbeaten run of contender Mike Tokatlian to earn a crack at his first title.

"Anthony Ayinde thinks he's going all the way in this competition, but I'm going to stop him in his tracks and take that title when we meet,"

said Baker. "I've watched Ayinde a few times now and he's an awkward, slippery southpaw, but I love boxing them because they are easier to hit with the right hand and I'm looking to make this an early night's work for myself."

"I'm coming into this fight with all the physical advantages and I'm ready to use all of them, and I'm confident this won't go the distance because I'm more than ready to do a job on him and derail his big ambitions."

Also in action on the same night, Chatham's undefeated heavyweight star Bill Harmer will challenge for his second title in the competition when he steps up to face man-mountain Delroy Underwood from London.

Both fights will be televised for British Eurosport on Sky TV.

For more information on the rest of the 14-contest line-up visit www.queensburyboxing.co.uk.

Join Kent and watch the Aussies

KENT County Cricket Club memberships have gone on sale, so fans can guarantee their ticket for Australia's first match against Kent in 18 years.

Kent will host the opening game of Australia's 2015 Ashes tour at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury, from Thursday to Sunday, June 25-28.

Skipper Rob Key, who played for England in the 2002-03 Ashes series in Australia, says it is the greatest rivalry in cricket and he will be proud to host the tourists in a four-day match next summer.

The 35-year-old, who scored a half-century against the Aussies at Melbourne Cricket Ground, said: "2015 is a massive summer for English cricket with the Ashes series and hopefully Kent can play a part."

"We're looking forward to welcoming the Aussies down to St Lawrence and giving them a tough opening game."

"England v Australia is the biggest rivalry in the game and it will be a great occasion for the club. I hope Kent supporters turn out in force."

Visit www.kentcricket.co.uk for details of club membership.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
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